The Commonweal

A Weekly Review of Literature, The Arts and Public Affairs

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PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE

THAT the majority report of the Senate's Committee on the Judiciary so unequivocally condemning the President's proposal to reorganize the federal judiciary should be rejoicingly welcomed by those many American citizens to whom the federal courts, in especial the Supreme Court, stand in an almost religious atmosphere of loyalty and reverence, is perfectly natural, and, within due limits of sound reason, most commendable; although it is high time indeed that such unreflecting worshipers of an ideal should ask whether that ideal corresponds to twentieth-century realities. We believe that a truthful answer to such a question would be disconcerting, and would reveal far more merit in the President's sensible plan than the zealots as yet will allow. However, this question is not one for quick disposal, and needs to be dispassionately studied.

It is likewise perfectly understandable that the Senate committee's condemnation of the President's proposals should be received with satisfied delight by that predominant portion of the press which so obediently misrepresents popular opinion —and so blunderingly attempts to train that opinion—at the behests of its economic and financial overlords. But we think that this powerful portion of the press—powerful in its financial influence, but far less than powerful in its efforts to influence the thinking of free Americans—is in for another awakening, of the sort meted out to it after its misrepresentation of the mind of the multitude in the presidential campaign. For the President is truly President of the people, of all the classes of all the people, and not merely the head of a political party, and still less the representative of any section of any party, or of any class. And we believe that the people are well aware of this truth, and look now, not to the press, and not to this or that political party, but look to the President to speak the word that will

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rally their will to aid his will to bring about the fulfilment of the pledges made to the nation by the nation's leader in the dark hours when that nation faced the utter ruin of all that it holds dear: the hope of living as free men in a free nation within the traditions of a Christian civilization.

Those editors and editorial workers who, even though they serve perforce the interests of the financial and industrial overlords who own and control the great secular press to a dangerous degree (for a monopolistic press is a deadly peril to a free nation, unless counterbalanced by a press economically as well as ethically independent of organized financial and industrial interests, and we are losing that balance in the press, in the United States, losing it rapidly), yet retain the traditions of the press as they used to prevail—namely, that the press should be first and foremost an honest instrument for reporting facts and providing a free forum for the formation of sound public opinion—those journalists should warn their economic overlords to mend their ways.

Groups of such overlords, ruthless and determined and powerful men, have misruled this nation ever since the traditional agricultural foundation of our national culture was thrust aside in favor of speculative financial and industrial interests, and of a wasteful and spendthrift "development," for the enrichment of a limited class of men-on-the-make, some winning the gambling games, many losing, but all lusting to win. Now, it is the experience recorded in universal history, from the dawn of civilization to our own unhappy age, that such greedy men are invariably stupid when they try to operate outside the narrow range of their specialized functions of money-making, or money-chasing. They attempt to promote their interests by using men abler than themselves in certain offices of the commonwealth, or kingdom, or oligarchy—whatever the particular form of government may be, in any particular time or place—but these men are generally consciously or unconsciously subservient to the power of wealth. Hence the constant tendency of the literary, and professional, and legal, and subordinate classes of any system dominated by wealth or unjust special privilege, to serve the presumed interests of the nation but according to the formula that the special interests must be served first, and foremost, and most plentifully, and, if necessary to the preservation of such classes, to the exclusion of the benefit of other classes. And then, invariably, if such a policy is persisted in, comes—revolution: revolution violent, or revolution unbloody yet subversive; but, anyhow, revolution comes.

Within the domain of their own special, personal or class interests, the overlords of any system in which special privilege has taken root are, we repeat, forceful men, resourceful also, and competent, in a masculine, and at times very usefully constructive way—as they were in the earlier days of our nation, when the expansion of the frontiers, and the development of the overflowing natural resources, and the peopling of the vast empty spaces of the West and the Southwest, and the acquisition of tremendous new territories to be added to the enormous territory already owned by the American people, demanded unusual energy, and that energy was exercised. But even from the beginning, it was exercised, to a large degree, unjustly, and in the private interests of private individuals, or groups of them, leagued against the masses of the people. For, as always it happens, outside of their competence and their ability in their chosen field, the overlords, and their purchased followers, fighting among themselves even while trying to present a common front to the masses of the people, display a woeful incompetence, especially in judging the merits of their own struggle on behalf of their own property. For they fail to realize that unless the masses of the people also really own, and can freely use, real property, as the instrument of their own personalities, and as the indispensable instrument of civic and religious liberties, why, the time will come—as come it has already in many lands—when the masses of the people will welcome economic security even at the hands of a tyrant, or a tyrannical oligarchy, even with the loss of liberty, rather than endure economic insecurity paid for with unsound political liberty.

That sort of crisis has not yet been reached in our country; but it looms not far off. It will come if rich men insist upon sitting on the safety valve of social reform, and check all reasonable efforts made by middle-of-the-road reformers to bring about a greater degree of genuine social justice for all classes of the community. And if the more rigid, and therefore the more stupid, sort of financial and economic overlords should now vainly imagine that their selfish determination to keep intact their long claim to determine not merely the men, but the philosophy behind the men, who shall man the press, and the schools, and the courts of this land, now that so great a part of their former political power has been lost—if they think that such a delusion, although hailed by their own press, is really popular, that it really represents the mind of the people, and that the masses of the nation are turning away from their true leader, President Roosevelt, why such a state of mind, if they honestly believe in it, is but another proof of the atmosphere of illusion in which they exist. For we believe that President Roosevelt is unbeatable on this issue, if he presses it. Representing, as he does, the tradition and the realities, of the true American property system—springing from a family rooted in the soil, accustomed to real property, accus-

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tomed to serving the interests of their neighbors, of all sorts and classes, inheriting education in liberty and public service as well as land and houses, and acquiring true gentility, the gentility of the courteous service of others, in a spirit truly religious—in Franklin D. Roosevelt the nation at last has a President of all the people, one to whom mere vulgar wealth has no awe at all, nor its crude masters any power that free men need respect. When such a President speaks to the people, having given many proofs of sincerity, the people respond—and the press record the facts of the situation, and, for a time, forget their illusions. In time, they may even recall the true functions of a free press, and return to their use.

Week by Week

THE COURT proposal reached the floor of the Senate where it was simply put on the pending list, with no plans made for debates and action. Ten of the eighteen members of the Judiciary Committee submitted a bitterly hostile report, calling the bill "a proposal that violates every sacred tradition of American democracy," and asking that it be turned down so emphatically "that its parallel will never again be presented to the free representatives of the free people of America." As summer heat progressed Congress also showed prospects of giving more practical attention to the tax evasion inquiry, the ever-normal granary farm plan and relief measures. A Senate committee resolved that city and local governments should pay 40 percent of relief costs unless they could prove themselves incapable of doing so, but it was considered next to unthinkable that the new relief law would contain any such provision. Countries abroad were undergoing various sorts of severe strains, but the international tension over Spain seemed to relax. In France, the Blum Cabinet was in process of undergoing its third financial crisis within a year, and the Radical-Socialist caucus within the Popular Front grew increasingly restive. The three-power money accord between France, England and the United States was threatened by France's inability to keep gold or balance her budget and by our inability to keep out gold.

The Trend of Events

IN AMERICA, the trend of strike events was most serious. Rioting on the picket lines became almost commonplace. The independent steel companies, which the union charges are backed by finance and industry in general, backed down not a bit from their determination to refuse a written contract. Public opinion, stimulated and organized by both sides, acted in two ways. The state governors would not send in soldiers to "protect" the companies in such a way that they could operate their plants safely with the non-union men they claimed to be able to find. On the other hand, most notably in Monroe, Michigan, powerful sections of the public were roused to vigilante mood, apparently determined by direct action to break down interference with operations. The C.I.O. began reaching back from the mills to captive coal mines and ore boats in an effort to cut off supplies from the manufacturing plants. Undoubtedly modern methods of union campaigning and picketing involve intimidation and violence which, taken by themselves, are unjustified. When these methods are balanced against the methods of resisting unionization and the general effort of labor to raise its level and become more powerful in the conduct of industry, the problem of wisdom and justice becomes tragically complicated. A shift of power must be, and almost undoubtedly will be, made toward the poor. Industrialists, laborers and the public should try to effect this with the minimum of violence and crookedness on both sides and the maximum of good-will in men and production in industry. However dangerous, it seems necessary in particular disputes for the public to assert itself. Legally, this can probably be done without the creation of a hard state economy, but with the specious legality of temporary and frankly partial deputies, or with the illegality of unauthorized vigilante committees, it can only result in the abrogation of democracy.

Red Justice

THE EXECUTION of eight high-ranking generals of the Red army for the alleged crime of sabotaging the Soviet peace-time military machine of 1,750,000 soldiers under arms and revealing its secrets to an unfriendly power marks the sixth wholesale blood purge the Soviet government has carried out within a year. The trial was secret. No appeal was permitted. Defense counsel was not present. The essential features of the Communist brand of democracy stand clearly revealed. No one in Russia today possesses any recognized inalienable rights. On six different occasions within a year Stalin, champion of "democracy" and the "democratic" processes of government, issued an order and 151 people were liquidated. They had displeased Stalin. They had displeased the Soviet government high command. Who in Russia is loyal to Stalin? Apparently nearly everyone is suspect. It is quite possible that Stalin may not survive this grave internal crisis. But if this dictator retains full control of the army and Communist party machinery, we may expect an intensification of Popular Front activity in every country in the world—except Russia.

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THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION recently gave birth control official approval "as having a definite place in medical practise." The association will investigate the various forms of contraception with a view to disseminating authoritative information on the subject to the medical profession and will promote the teaching of proper methods of birth control in the medical schools. The decision does not surprise us. It is but another manifestation of the pagan philosophy that dominates America. Why strain at a gnat and swallow a camel? The association's action is intended to reduce the physical evils caused by the indiscriminate dissemination of contraceptive information. It may curb the racketeer who gives information to high school students and the quack who exploits the uninformed. At the same time we affirm our positive conviction that artificial birth control is a very great evil that can flourish only in a society that is ignorant of or scoffs at Christian principles. Members of the association, with the best humanitarian intentions in the world, will devote time and energy to the amelioration of certain deplorable abuses resulting from the evil. But the evil itself is not only unchecked but given additional impetus by the association's indorsement. The menace of birth control can be destroyed by action in converting America to the belief and practise of true Christianity, by reconstructing a truly Christian social order in which decent Christians can live decently.

Birth Control

OUR READERS will have noticed, perhaps, that a new name has been added to the "masthead," or editorial announcement, of this journal—that of Mr. John J. O'Connor, who is now the acting managing editor of THE COMMONWEAL, a change made necessary by the recent departure of Mr. George N. Shuster for Europe, where, as we recently informed our public, he is to carry out important literary and sociological research on behalf of Columbia University. It is also our hope that our readers will notice the results of Mr. O'Connor's accession to our staff in ways more valuable to themselves than merely the interest naturally excited by the appearance of a new name on our masthead. For that masthead, by implication at least, is truly the standard of this paper's policy, now of more than twelve years' application, to do all within the power of its staff, and its contributors, to apply to the problems of our nation and the world the tried, tested and permanently true principles of Christianity, as drawn from the abundant treasury of Catholic teachings and tradition. That Mr. O'Connor is well fitted to do his share in this work we are fully persuaded. Born in Washington, D. C., so recently as 1904, his youth has been balanced and made experienced by an unusual amount of scholastic, legal, journalistic and church study and work. No less than four degrees from Georgetown University attest the seriousness and successful issue of his educational equipment; moreover, he is not only among those who are taught, for he also is a teacher, having been assistant professor of history, Georgetown, from 1927 to 1935, and is now assistant professor of history at St. John's University, Brooklyn, New York. For many years he has been conspicuously prominent in Catholic Action circles in Washington and elsewhere, and his name as a contributor of lucid and well-informed articles and reviews is familiar to the readers of many Catholic periodicals. Valuable interconfessional experience came to him recently through his work as one of the editors of the News Service of the National Conference of Jews and Christians. Catholic journalism must be Catholic in more than a sectarian sense, to be truly itself; and Mr. O'Connor will, we believe, do his part acceptably in promoting the great development in which THE COMMONWEAL hopes to share.

Introducing an Editor

SPEAKING as New Yorkers with a fair of our own in the offing, but still of course quite disinterestedly, we wish to appeal to the better nature of the city of San Francisco. We wish to ask them, more in sorrow than in anger, whether they think one of the announced plans for their forthcoming Golden Gate International Exposition is wholly in accord with the highest standards of cricket. We refer, of course, to the exotically tinted sidewalks which are being devised by the exposition's color expert. With one of his avowed objects—the reducing of eye-strain—we suppose no one can pick a quarrel, though when we were young eye-strain was reduced by good, honest green: there was no loose talk then about magenta and maroon. But to press on to the real objection, as persons of right feeling must see it. These roseate walks, we are told, will "raise the emotional level of visitors" to the Golden Gate Exposition, will "keep them gay and vivacious"; more, they will "make the women appear younger, more beautiful, the men more romantic"; and, most unkindest cut of all, they will induce the males thus invested with illusionary glamor "to spend more freely." There is no one, we think, who can fail to see that this is hitting below the belt—basely scheming for an unjustifiable advantage. It is trickery like this which destroys the confidence which should subsist between city and city, particularly when both are having fairs. "Beautiful," "romantic," indeed! Besides, how do they know it will work?

Fair Tactics Not Fair

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THE TANGLE OF CENTRAL EUROPE

By GEOFFREY FRASER

"THE LAST war started in the Balkans. The coming war will start in Central Europe." Such is the verdict of practically every diplomat and foreign affairs expert in Europe today. In 1914, thanks to the close association of Germany and Austria-Hungary, the zone of contest did not start till the Balkans were reached. Today it starts much further north, on Germany's own frontiers in Central Europe.

The situation is most complex and confusing—a veritable tangle of alliances and cross-alliances, minorities and counter-minorities, conflicts of racial and economic interests. Take one instance. What would happen if Poland were to go to war with Czechoslovakia over Teschen? France has a military alliance with both. Her other military ally, Russia, has a military alliance only with one of these two states. Imagination boggles at the juridical conundrums that would face diplomats. History, however, is not written in terms of juridical conundrums, but in those of historic movements, tendencies and necessities. Of such is the *Drang nach Osten,* the urge toward the East.

If the apparently hopeless Central European tangle be considered in the light of the German *Drang nach Osten* movement, it becomes much clearer and more intelligible. It begins to assume shape and form. One may even then not be able to determine the whole of the line-up. But the first steps may be ascertained by logical deduction.

First, a deduction from geographical facts. A German move down the Danube valley comes up in the first place against either Czechoslovakia or Austria. A mere glance at a map shows that.

Next a deduction from political facts. A German move against Austria would (despite Mussolini's apparent passivity in Austrian affairs, which is but temporary) entail open conflict with Italy. For Italy it is a question of life or death to keep German armies away from her Alpine frontier. Faced with a potential world of enemies, Germany's sole game is to deal with them singly. Italy is at present friendly, and will remain so as long as her interests are not interfered with. Her interests are at stake in Austria, but not in Czechoslovakia. It follows that Germany has everything to gain by leaving well enough alone in Austria and concentrating her first effort on Czechoslovakia.

There is another compelling reason for this course. Beyond Austria and Czechoslovakia lies Hungary, which for Germany is a possible ally or at worst a very benevolent neutral. Hungary is not favorable to an aggression on Austria, for she is bound to both Austria and Italy by the Rome accords. On the other hand she looks upon Czechoslovakia as one of her three biggest enemies, as one of the arch-robbers of her historic patrimony. From the destruction of the Czechoslovak state the Hungarians might well expect reunion with the 90,000 Hungarians who people certain districts on the Hungarian border. A German blow at Prague would therefore be received with enthusiasm in Budapest. It would hardly entail active Hungarian assistance to German arms, for that would be upsetting for German calculations. For a Hungarian aggression against Czechoslovakia would bring Rumania and Jugoslavia into the field under the Little Entente pact. That pact does not operate in case of a German aggression on Czechoslovakia.

This reasoning makes it clear that Czechoslovakia must be the first aim of a German offensive move. These indeed are almost the very words used in a memorandum on the international situation, written early in 1937 by a German general staff officer, which has been published in the European press. A passage of that memorandum is well worth quoting:

> Czechoslovakia presents itself as the first objective of an offensive. On this point, the following is the viewpoint of the Ministry of War: We have up till now passively endured the provocations of our Eastern neighbors regarding the ill-treatment meted out to German minorities. As National Socialists we are bound to apply the racial principle to foreign affairs. It is therefore evident that the day is nearing when we will have to act in order to protect and liberate our German brethren who live beyond the frontiers of the Reich. If these provocations continue, the day will come when our national sentiment will explode. That day we will strike.
>
> Ways and means have of course been studied with care. The general staff reckons it will occupy the Bohemian industrial districts with lightning-like rapidity. The Czechoslovak army will be defeated before the Soviet Russian forces can come to its assistance. It is expected that within the first few hours Russian bombing squadrons will make their appearance in the air, and there is no tendency to minimize the value of this help. It is thought unlikely that Rumania will allow the passage of the Red Army over her territory, though she would probably see no objection to allowing Russian airfleets to fly over her country. Even were a Russian army to pass through Rumania, it would have its lines of communication running alongside the Hun-

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garian frontier and would therefore be open to Hungarian and possibly Austrian flank attacks.

This passage raises several important issues. In the first place the attitude of Rumania. Since Czechoslovakia has no common frontier with Russia, the only means of access of Russian relieving troops are over either Poland or Rumania. In the course of the highly important conversations General Rydz-Smigly had in Paris in the autumn of 1936 with General Gamelin, the French generalissimo designate, he absolutely refused to allow Russian troops to pass through Polish territory. There are, of course, circumstances conceivable in which this attitude might be altered; for instance if it were Poland and not Czechoslovakia that were the object of the German onslaught. But for the reasons indicated above, it is practically certain that the first attack will be directed against Czechoslovakia. Study of the map will show that the only alternative Russian route leads over a fairly narrow tongue of Rumanian territory, where at the time of writing a railway line is being feverishly constructed. The only rail link with the central part of Czechoslovakia thereafter is, as the memorandum quoted above points out, one which runs parallel to the Hungarian frontier. Once there the Russians may be trusted to deal with the Hungarians if need be.

But whether they reach there at all depends on the good-will of Rumania, and there is today no one in Europe outside Rumania, and possibly no one in Rumania itself, who knows for certain whether the Bucharest government would give its consent. Were Titulescu back in office—and many expect him to be back within the next few weeks—permission would probably be given, for Titulescu is a very far-seeing statesman who realizes acutely the danger there would be for Rumania herself, were Czechoslovakia to succumb to the German attack.

But for the moment it must be assumed that Rumania would remain neutral in that first stage of the conflict. What assets would Czechoslovakia have for her defense? She has, geographically, an exceedingly difficult task. She has an army which, though well equipped, is composed of varying nationalities; she cannot count upon the loyalty of one-third of her troops, who are composed of men of German race. General Fauchet, the head of the French military mission to Prague, told a friend of mine lately that the Czechs could resist six months. The general seems to be overconfident. Even with the aid of Russian planes, six weeks is, in the opinion of many experts, a much more likely figure. And there can be no sort of hope that within six weeks the French could give effective assistance. A German attack on Czechoslovakia automatically brings the Franco-Czech treaty of mutual assistance into force. It would mean a Franco-German war. But the Germans have erected along the French frontier, at some distance back, a formidable line of permanent fortifications, and not even the most optimistic of Frenchmen would dream of the possibility of the French armies breaking through that line in that short space of time.

It is considerations of this kind that have caused pessimism or a sort of dull fatalism to spread over Central and Eastern Europe. The German game is fairly clear. The only point in doubt is when the plan will be put into operation. A plan, be it noted, which presents every prospect of success in the initial stage. What would happen later on is a different matter; it would depend on many factors, notably on the attitude of Italy, of England, of the Little Entente states. But the German calculation that they can prevent Russia from effective help, that they can contain the French armies within their borders and that they can crush the Czechoslovak forces appears fairly sound prognostication for the first few months of the planned war. This would lead German arms into the fertile plains of Hungary and link them up with that by no means despicable military ally for the second stage of the campaign. And it would give them command of ample material resources and of the important Bohemian industrial region.

The question asked anxiously and debated fiercely in every European Foreign Office today is whether Germany will launch her blow this year. It is known that the Germans are not quite ready as yet, and the already quoted memorandum is very clear on this point: "The keenest desire of the military leaders of the Reich is to prevent the war from breaking out prematurely." On the other hand the British armaments credits have been a revelation. The strength of Russia is felt to be growing rapidly. The French are not stinting money to complete their armaments. Even with the none too sure help of Italy and Japan, Germany will lose ground steadily, month by month, in that mad universal race of armaments.

The temptation to strike before the overweight has become too great on the other side is obvious and great. There are many who think it will prove irresistible. There are others, and they include the military advisers of the French government, who think that certain deficiencies in German arms, revealed clearly in the course of the Spanish battles, will deter the German generals from action at the present time. God grant that they be right. For if the war that threatens out of the Central European tangle can be avoided in 1937 and 1938, the might of the European powers that stand for peace and international cooperation will have grown so strong that none but madmen would dare challenge them.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT SPAIN

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESS: NO. 5

By MICHAEL WILLIAMS

EVEN though the American Newspaper Guild by no means has received the approval and cooperation of the corporations and individuals owning our news gathering and distributing agencies, and the daily newspapers, certainly the resolution passed, despite minor opposition, by the Guild at its convention in St. Louis last week pretty fairly represents the prevailing point of view promulgated by the larger part of the press, and accepted without much questioning by the great majority of the American people, concerning the Spanish Civil War. The resolution runs as follows:

> Whereas the forces of world Fascism, having wiped out the trade unions in their own lands, are now attacking the organized workers and defenseless people of Spain and have already executed all known trade union members in rebel-held territory:
>
> Therefore be it resolved: The American Newspaper Guild, realizing that Fascism must be defeated in Spain to halt the anti-labor forces in their lawless attacks on freedom and democracy, hereby registers its vigorous protest against these anti-labor, anti-democratic forces to prevent their ascendancy here and extends its support and encouragement to the heroic people of Spain, who are now offering their lives in defense of organized labor and democracy.

There are several highly interesting, critically important, points about that resolution—and about the more significant fact that the resolution represents the point of view held by newspapers which are themselves often inimical to trade unionism, and to the Newspaper Guild. In the first place, it is assumed, no proof being offered (and indeed, little if any real proof exists to be offered) to support the assumption, that world Fascism, by which is meant the influence of Hitler and Mussolini, are the chief protagonists of the struggle in Spain; and not a word is said, never a single, solitary word is ever said, by the champions of this baseless assumption, about the notorious, provable, undeniable fact that Communism has wiped out all trade unions except those absolutely controlled by its iron tyranny in Russia, and is bound by the relentless logic of its own philosophy to wipe out all independent, free, democratic, cooperative trade unions—and indeed all associations of free and independent citizens, in religion, in labor, in trade, in politics, in literature, in law, in science, wherever and whenever Communism gains the mastery, directly or indirectly.

In Spain, Communism did gain the control of the feeble, paper-made so-called "constitutional, representative, republican government," brought into being by fraud and the mechanism of a fantastic type of election law, in 1931, and delivered into the hands of the Communists and the other elements of the "Popular Front" in 1936. And from that time onward—even before the Franco revolt—all semblance of democratic liberties disappeared in Spain, and the nation was handed over to the ravages of Communist and Anarchist gangs who proceeded to burn down hundreds of churches, schools, social settlements, newspaper offices, and to assassinate hundreds of their self-denominated "class enemies," boldly and frankly telling the whole world from Moscow, and from Spain, and in New York, and London, and elsewhere, that having obtained a republic, now they meant to have their revolution. And among the people they proceeded to liquidate, or to drive out of office, and out of the country, were nearly all the men who for more than twenty-five years had worked with voice, and pen, and political action to establish their notion of a democratic, republican, representative government in Spain. Alexander Lerroux, Dr. Marañon, Alcala Zamora, himself briefly President, Salvador de Madariaga, and scores of others, in short, the leading "liberal," or "radical," or "socialist" intellectualists—the Norman Thomases, the Heywood Brouns, the Leland Stowes, the Dr. Deweys, the Senator Nyes, of Spain—all were chucked out, or shot, or shut up, or driven out of Spain.

In the last event, they promptly told their stories, which all Europe and all South America know thoroughly; but in the free, democratic United States, with its supposedly free and independent and enterprising press, such utter nonsense as the resolution passed by the Newspaper Guild can still be swallowed, not only by Heywood Broun and his followers of the Guild, but even by newspapers fighting the Guild—like the *Herald Tribune* of New York, for example: which in its ownership and in its main editorials fights hard against precisely the sort of reckless, sentimental, cock-eyed "radicalism" which foams at the mouth at mention of Herr Hitler and Señor Mussolini, but smirks with satisfaction at the mention of that candid friend of liberals and democrats, Mr. Stalin, of Moscow. In the Scripps-Howard syndicate, Rollin Kirby employs his high talent as a cartoonist to depict Hitler

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and Mussolini squirting gasoline upon the flames in Spain—but where is Stalin who fanned the blaze into a bonfire long before Franco revolted, Stalin and the Spanish Communists who were using gasoline on Catholic churches by the hundreds long before the army rose up to fight for all that was left of the liberty and the civilization of their country? My neighbor, the *Nation,* honors me by listing my name among the defenders of the Catholic Church, and at once insults me and denies my many years of fighting against Hitlerism by declaring that I am a defender of what Hitler is doing in Spain. Yet the *Nation,* perhaps, would be outraged if I classed its editors as Communists, and, therefore, as defenders of the crimes of Communism, because the *Nation* accepts the plan of a "united front" of democrats and liberals with the Communists, not only in Spain, but in the United States.

The fact that the Catholic Church, through its supreme head, through its officials in Germany, through its leaders elsewhere, is confronting Hitler as its enemy, seems to make no impression upon these illogical gentry. They applaud what the Catholic Church is doing to repel tyranny in Germany, and then turn around and accuse it of being in alliance with German tyranny in Spain. And never a word, once more let the significant fact be noted, about the fact that Communism directs, Communism controls, the Madrid-Valencia government which they praise for its "democracy," and that the Communists and the Anarchists together have murdered between 150,000 and 200,000 Catholics, democrats, and Socialists in Spain—murdered them, away from the battlefields, away from bombings; murdered them by ones and twos and tens and scores and hundreds, up and down the region of Spain delivered over to the Reds by the Reds who ran the fake "democratic" government in Madrid, and, later, in Valencia.

No, gentlemen of the press, it won't do; and many of your own leaders and many of those who represent forces without whose support you cannot make your papers pay, and cannot continue to have them function, even so imperfectly as at present, as agencies of a free democratic way of life—many of these leaders, I say, are beginning to break through the silence you have maintained about the Rebel cause, and the Rebel justification, and the Catholic slaughter, in Spain. They are demanding, not suggesting any longer, that you right the wrong of the present one-sided coverage of the Spanish war; and that you should investigate the qualifications, and also the alliances, of many of your editors, reporters, copy editors, special writers, at home and abroad. And, as a mere beginning of plenty that is to come along this line, I give in the balance of this article, which will be followed by a fuller statement in a later number, a few of the comments caused by these "Open Letters" to the press.

Senator David Ignatius Walsh, of Massachusetts: "I know Editor Michael Williams of THE COMMONWEAL and hold him in high regard. The effort he is making to obtain vigilant and fair-minded reporting of the Spanish conflict is most praiseworthy. It ought to result in giving the American public the true picture in Spain today rather than the propaganda picture."

Senator M. M. Logan, of Kentucky: "The American public is definitely not getting what it should in the way of proper reporting from the other side in the Spanish situation. Mr. Michael Williams in his "Open Letter to the American Press, on Spain" has hit the nail on the head. I agree with him thoroughly. I might in fact go a step farther and state that this propaganda situation is true not only in Spain but everywhere else. The press has become largely the instrument of propaganda and such practise cannot help but react to its own deteriment. It is high time the correspondents in Spain and elsewhere heeded Mr. Williams's warning. One-sided reporting cannot but result in lack of confidence on the part of the reading public."

Senator Robert R. Reynolds, of North Carolina: "The need for accurate and honest reporting was never so apparent as in the coverage of the present Spanish War. Since, as Editor Williams reminds us, the Reds are in control of the important news sources in Madrid, Valencia, Barcelona and the Basque country, the bulk of news dispatches appearing in our newspapers are pro-Loyal. . . . Editor Williams is expressing the proper American viewpoint when he warns the leaders of the press to insist upon an accurate and non-partial report from Spain. I would like to see not only our correspondents in Spain who are exposed to Red propaganda influences but also the editors and directors in the home offices of our newspapers and press associations give utmost heed to THE COMMONWEAL's plea for press justice. A one-sided report by the press whether concerning a national or international event, works a decided detriment on the press itself. The public can be misled temporarily by false or colored reports but it can't be fooled for long. Thus, one-sided reportage in the end will tend to destroy public respect for the press and injure its own liberty and prestige. . . . I heartily commend THE COMMONWEAL's fine crusade."

Senator Sherman Minton, of Indiana: "Editor Williams's fighting crusade for accurate and unprejudiced reporting from the Spanish front is timely, indeed. The distortion of the news on the Spanish war is quite comparable to the twisted and warped editorial stand of the majority of the American press lining up against President Roosevelt in last year's election campaign. It is cer-

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tainly high time some live editor raised his voice to pierce through the maze of contradiction in reports from Spain. We can get at the truth only by reporting all sides of the Spanish situation. In this highly worthy editorial crusade Editor Williams can depend upon strong support from Capitol Hill."

Senator Charles O. Andrews, of Florida: "I desire to congratulate Editor Williams and THE COMMONWEAL for the exhibition of such editorial enterprise and courage. It might do some of our newspaper publishers now under Red influence a lot of good to talk with some of my people of Spanish descent. . . . I believe our press in general owes Mr. Michael Williams a debt of gratitude for reminding it of its duty to be objective. People just won't be fooled these days. They know how to think. When they discover printed deception they resent it bitterly. Some day the Red Press Mirage over Spain is going to lift and the Spanish Story will blow up in the faces of biased publishers who have apparently been led astray by the trappings of democracy."

Senator Royal S. Copeland, of New York: "No news story about anything should be published in an American newspaper which does not give the true facts. There should be no subversive influences either red or otherwise coloring news stories. Newspapers are printed to keep the American public informed of world affairs and it is their job to see that the public which is their charge is given the correct news accurately."

Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho: "From some of the accounts which I have read concerning the Spanish situation I was a bit inclined to get the opinion that they were colored for the Leftist side. Mr. Williams is right in demanding the full facts and fairly stated. What we want is the facts and nothing else. Propaganda is not and never will be fact and no good newspaper is run on propaganda."

Senator Arthur Capper, of Kansas: "Mr. Michael Williams's 'Open Letters to the American Press, on Spain,' should be an immeasurable help and have a beneficial effect in guiding the press to give a true news picture rather than the propaganda picture of the Spanish conflict. He is making a valiant attempt to attain the right kind of journalistic effort whether it be in this country or abroad."

Mr. Frank Brett Noyes, president of the Associated Press: "Mr. Williams's letter is indeed interesting but I must take issue with his contention that we are not presenting all the news as accurately and fairly as we know how. In my own personal opinion I believe that there is actually more news coming from the Rebel side than the Loyalists. We of the Associated Press have men on both sides who are earnestly trying to present the true facts as they are, with no propaganda at all. If Mr. Williams can make any suggestions that will aid us in fulfilling this aim we shall be happy to receive them."

America's newest Senator, Major George L. Berry, prominent labor leader and head of Labor's Non-Partizan League: "THE COMMONWEAL's crusade for the truth in the Spanish situation is commendable. Truth never hurt anybody. What we need today as never before is truth—at home and abroad. The non-similarity of newspaper reports from Spain is ridiculous."

Senator Edward Raymond Burke, of Nebraska: "I would like to know the facts as they are in Spain—the real facts. If Editor Williams gets us the facts he will deserve a hearty vote of thanks. I am very much in favor of THE COMMONWEAL's move to get the real facts."

Congressman Hamilton Fish, jr., of New York: "I favor a general investigation in this country to sift propaganda wired to America from both sides."

Senator William H. King, of Utah: "It has been my impression in reading reports of incidents out of Spain that in a good many instances the correspondent has been influenced by propaganda, but not having been there myself, of course it is impossible to substantiate this impression. If such a condition exists I think it is the responsibility of the editors and publishers on this side to either correct it or place a head-note on top of the article which will give the reader the proper understanding of the report. False or untrue reports will eventually react unfavorably upon the reading public and it is in the interest of those in charge of the press of the nation to correct any such situation."

Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper: "If such a situation exists as suggested by Mr. Michael Williams, it is a matter which should be taken care of by the press itself. That the American public is entitled to the truth cannot be denied. I feel certain that our press wishes to give us truthful accounts on world events."

Senator Lewis B. Schwellenbach, of Washington: "It is impossible to know under our present news set-up just what the situation is. The entire danger comes from censored dispatches that we do not know are censored. I recently made a proposal that would stop this sort of thing. At a recent meeting of newspapermen in Philadelphia I suggested that all dispatches of this nature run a caption over the heading stating whether they are censored or whether they are not censored by foreign governments. My idea was to make this provision for newspapers into a law, enabling the papers to take advantage of the second-class mailing privileges only by complying with the law. In this way we could know if what we are reading is uncensored or not. This is one way I know will aid us in obtaining the truth. In fact, one news service has voluntarily adopted this practise

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and I would like to see the others also do it. We cannot get at the truth in any situation, Spain or otherwise, by merely wishing for it. Some definite and specific action must be taken to insure the American people a chance to judge for themselves in such a controversial situation."

Senator Lynn J. Frazier, of North Dakota: "I have felt that perhaps reports out of Spain on the Spanish situation may have been influenced to some degree, but at the same time I realize the difficulties confronting a news man in trying to get out dispatches from a country at war. Naturally the American public is entitled to the truth but in many instances the truth is not always easy to get. The reports I have seen have definitely been confusing. Continuance of confusing reports or dispatches influenced by propaganda will of course react unfavorably upon the press as a whole."

Senator John Overton, of Louisiana: "It is pretty hard for us here in Washington or anywhere else to tell just what is true and what is false from Spain. If such false reports or reports slanted by propaganda, as inferred by Mr. Williams in his letter, exist, such dispatches should of course be edited upon this side. We are all aiming to get the truth and if THE COMMONWEAL can help in this aim it will deserve the thanks of all right-thinking Americans."

Senator William Gibbs McAdoo, of California: "There has been a lot of misinformation coming from Spain which makes it very confusing to understand. I have only followed the dispatches on military tactics and consequently am not in a position to say whether they are influenced or not."

Senator Alva B. Adams, of Colorado: "Frankly, reports out of Spain have been so confusing as they are printed in papers over here it would be difficult for anyone to say definitely whether or not they have been influenced one way or the other. If propaganda has found its way into these reports it should be stopped. The reading public is entitled to know the plain unvarnished truth."

"THAT'S SOMETHING PRACTICAL"

By EDGAR SCHMIEDELER

THE REMARK was heard on all sides. Time and again was it repeated. In substance it was always the same. "That's something practical." Or again, "No more theory, that."

Behind the oft-reiterated words was a deep realization of a need, a keen sense that something had to be done, and done speedily if serious consequences were to be averted. Behind it, too, was a feeling that a practical answer had been found for the need in question. A speaker had just presented some startling figures regarding our rapidly declining birth rate. He had pointed to the certainty of depopulation unless a remedy for the pressing problem would soon be found. The remedy that he proposed was the so-called Maternity Guild. In it he claimed to see at least a partial solution of the problem. It was this guild's apparent practicality that had elicited such favorable remarks from those who had listened to him.

The Maternity Guild has been defined as "a group of individuals who bind themselves together on a parish basis to provide a fund for the purpose of defraying the expenses incidental to childbirth on the part of any of its members." This definition emphasizes the motive that gave rise to the Maternity Guild idea, namely, the financial help that it gives its members. However, the hope has time and again been expressed that the economic motive will not be the only one that will actuate the guild members. Those most interested in the guild are eager that the organization will also develop in Catholic parents a definite morale, that it will create in them a genuine pride in Christian parenthood and will fire them with a determination to stand shoulder to shoulder in opposition to modern degeneracy and in defense of the Catholic principles of wedded life.

The establishment of Maternity Guilds was prompted by the fact that many today are unable to procure for themselves competent care at the time of confinement, or can meet the expenses involved only with the greatest difficulty. It was prompted, too, by the fact that the enemies of Christian wedlock are organized for its destruction, that they are organized to help those in wedded life by sinful means, while no suitable organization is at hand to render financial assistance to those who are eager to observe the law of God. It has been proposed to meet this situation by means of guilds founded on a parish basis and functioning in conjunction with local Catholic hospitals. By means of a fund, obtained from various types of guild members, hospital care is to be provided for expectant mothers who are members of a particular unit. Normally, this service is to be rendered them, not on a basis of charity or poor relief, but as paying members of a guild. In other words, the guild aims primarily to be a service to people of moderate means. However, there is no objection to building up a fund, whenever that is possible, which will be

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sufficiently large to provide maternity care also for a number of very poor people—individuals who are members of the parish wherein a guild is established, but who are unable to pay any dues or make any other contributions to the fund. Indeed, this is to be highly recommended.

Several different types of members have been proposed for these guilds. In the main, however, they can be reduced to these three: family members, contributing members, patrons. By family members are meant husbands and wives of a parish who are rearing a family, and who may therefore expect to benefit directly from membership in the guild. Commonly, these members are expected to pay fixed monthly or annual dues. In the event of confinement a hospital with which the guild has entered into an agreement renders ordinary service and care to the mother for a fixed period, all expenses being met out of the guild fund. This, at any rate, is the ideal commonly aimed at. The second type of members, or the so-called contributing members, are parishioners of moderate means who do not expect to derive any financial benefits from membership, but who are nevertheless willing to contribute an alms at regular intervals for the furtherance of this worthy cause. There are always in Catholic parishes a number of people who are eager to make a sacrifice for any such good cause. These might be asked to contribute a regular fee half as large as that given by family members. Finally, there are the patrons. These are people of means, who, from motives of Christian charity, contribute substantial sums to the fund. The contributions of this particular class of members may in some instances lead to the eventual establishment of a permanent endowment for the guilds.

The Maternity Guild movement is relatively new. It was launched at the St. Louis convention of the Catholic Women's Union of America in 1932. To date units have been established in San Antonio, New York, Rochester, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Quincy, Illinois, Homestead, Pennsylvania, and Johannesburg, Africa. All these are operated on plans best suited to their particular locations and conditions. They have varied considerably in their plans of organization, their methods of operation and their program of action. There is still no one final form of the guild. Indeed, there may never be. Certainly for the time being, a considerable amount of flexibility in form is highly desirable.

Perhaps the single most enthusiastic supporter of the Maternity Guild idea is its recognized author, the Reverend Joseph J. Schagemann, C.SS.R., of Lima, Ohio. Among other valuable services that he had rendered the guild cause is the fact that, after painstaking study of its possibilities, he has discussed his plan at length with a number of members of the medical and nursing professions, and with hospital authorities. The results of these discussions seem to justify the conclusion that in general hospitalization of maternity cases can be offered to guild members at the rate of approximately $50 a case. That is, of course, in striking contrast with the more excessive charges that have been brought to light in recent years. To recall only one general figure, the president of a physicians' guild stated several years ago that the average cost of 90 percent of the confinement cases in a large city, exclusive of charity cases, is $200. Needless to add, there are plenty who can ill afford to pay any such sum.

The existing guilds have been financed in a variety of ways. One of the most successful, a guild that has cared for more than one hundred maternity cases since its establishment in 1934, has received its income from four different sources—fees, donations, interest from an investment fund, and parish socials. A word about each of these should be in place.

A fee of $25 must be paid by every expectant mother who wishes to avail herself of the Maternity Guild services. This obligation may be met on the monthly instalment plan. It so happens that the people of the parish in which the guild is established have a small loan bank of their own, called a parish credit union. This little bank is in a position to advance to guild members this amount, if they desire to borrow it, with the understanding that it be paid back at the rate of $1 per week plus a small interest charge.

Individuals of means voluntarily make contributions to the guild fund. Groups or organizations also make donations. Commonly these gifts range from sums of $25 to $50.

As to an investment fund, the guild in this instance is based on a pre-existing organization, the Christian Mothers' Society of the parish. This society has in the course of years accumulated a fund of $7,000. The interest on this fund is now drawn upon when necessary to meet the obligations of the guild to its members.

An annual Thanksgiving social is sponsored by the Christian Mothers' Society to supplement the foregoing sources of revenue. This is a gala parish affair and all the parochial societies help along in one capacity or other. In this way not only the parents but also the grandparents and the prospective parents are united in one common cause, the Maternity Guild.

This particular guild has a standing arrangement with a number of physicians and hospitals regarding cost of cases that will be sent them, and regarding type of care to be given its members. A member who has complied with the usual requirements of the guild is given an introductory card to one of these doctors. This will entitle

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her to ordinary prenatal, natal and postnatal care. She is also given a card introducing her to the Sisters of a Catholic hospital. This card entitles her to ten days' ordinary care in a ward of the hospital. The guild pays $25 to the hospital and $20 to the doctor. Should the case require other than ordinary care, such as an operation, or should the member wish a private room or special nurse, the extra expenses incurred must be taken care of by the patient. Incidentally, the guild in question also takes care of a number of charity cases, members of the Christian Mothers' Society who are unable to pay the required fee of $25 to the guild fund.

Another guild functions along the following lines. There is, first of all, a general group whose members contribute $1.20 a year, expectant mothers giving more. Then there is a special group consisting of contributing members who give $5 a year and of patrons who make an annual donation of $25. Services are provided by a local hospital in a two-bed ward for one week, at a cost of $40. Physician's fee, delivery charges, prenatal and postnatal care and, in case of complications, a longer stay in the institution are included in these charges.

Considered from the viewpoint of our threatening problem of depopulation, the Maternity Guild is deserving of most careful attention. How truly startling has become that problem can readily be seen from figures and estimates of the federal government. These tell us that at present there are only about two-thirds enough children being born in our large cities (those of over 100,000 population) to maintain their population stationary without accessions from outside; and that in the smaller cities (those from 2,500 to 100,000 population) the deficit is about 15 percent. Our cities, therefore, are today no longer reproducing themselves. And what do the statistics say of their future prospects? They clearly tell us that, even without any further drop in the birth rate, their decline is bound to be exceedingly rapid, barring accessions from outside, that is, through immigration from abroad or through migration from the country districts. Here are the actual figures: Ten adults in our large cities are now having about 7 children. These 7, without any further decrease in the birth rate, will have less than 5 children, and these 5 will have an average of about 3½. This means that within three generations, or approximately 100 years, these cities will drop to one-third their present level. A city of 300,000, in other words, would then have about 100,000 inhabitants—granting the premise that there would be no additions from outside.

It is true, of course, that our country at large may still take some comfort from the fact that our rural population presents quite a different picture. Ten adults there are today having about 13 children. If the birth rate falls no lower, these 13 will have 17 children, and these 17 will have about 22. In three generations, or 100 years, such a population will have doubled.

However, it should be well to note that as Catholics we have little reason to take comfort from the high rural birth rate. We are an urban Church. The great majority—likely more than 80 percent—of our Catholic people live in the city.

In view of these facts it would seem needless to argue that to foster the Maternity Guild movement is to do a commendable work. It deserves to be given every attention, to have its fullest possibilities tested on a vast scale without further hesitation or delay. We have long been talking and writing about our decreasing birth rate. It is now time that we do something about it. The Maternity Guild offers us a practical means. It is indeed something practical. More than that, it has become something necessary.

Song Goes Begging

(*Note: The only common man drawn lovingly in Homer's immortal poetry is Eumaeus, a swineherd.*)

"These stones are cold: the house is strong;
The lash of the sea sounds in the gate;
I have groped my way to Pylos strand
From midmost Argos. Here I wait.

"Say to the Woman of this great House
In her painted room, that old and blind,
Hungry, footsore, I come to earn
Her bread and honey-hearted wine,

"And a pair of old shoes when I go my way:
I have brought a ballad to touch her tears—
Of Lady Penelope, the island queen,
And her lord, who wandered many years:

"And these were faithful: she dwelling in the home
Of her wedded joy, a house it was that teemed
With good things for the folk, a house
She would remember ever when she dreamed;

"And he on Troy's high battle-land afar
And on heaving seas still striving he would long
To find his island and Penelope.
I am blind Homer: will you buy my song?"

The steward answered. "We do not need," said he,
"Beggars and balladmen and their kind today;
My lady's house is gilded for a feast
To grander people. Go you on your way:

"Go to the swineherd yonder on the hill.
Maybe he'll give you supper in his cot
For a song's sake."—Eumaeus was that man:
He lives in the song; the lady is forgot.

HUGH DE BLACAM.

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SONGBIRDS IN MAY

By JAMES W. LANE

ON ONE of those mornings, along about the middle of May, with the dogwood in flower and the air as limpid as on a boat offshore, I arose with the sun—when daylight-saving makes it rise about five-thirty—and could scarcely believe my ears. I am sure that if there had been no sun that morning, things would have been comparatively quiet, but sun makes all the difference to birds. It seems to relax and soothe their vocal cords and that is why most early morning songsters can be descried in the tops of trees—there the sun best hits them.

On this morning, still and sunny to a wonderful degree, each bird was singing, or at least had some note to utter. Cowbirds of course might just as well rattle a tin spoon around in a can, for all the pleasure they produce on your ears, nor is a scolding oriole or a chattering starling very mellifluous. But, waiving such disharmonies, most birds at this hour seem only intent on singing.

On this particular morning what could have been more inspiring than the cool whistle of a bob-white, literally on the hill below my window. When my setter gets running, the quail beats a hasty retreat off the premises, but he is an earlier riser than the dog, for which I am very thankful.

Outside, the always reliable chorus of robins and song sparrows was shot through with those resonant, rich-toned but tentative notes that the Baltimore oriole uses in the first fortnight after his arrival. Not one oriole but almost half a dozen sang—they sang on the ground, flying through the air, alighting on a twig, and in the midst of searching for slugs. Not even my purple martins, which are pretty persistent warblers themselves, sing in so many different attitudes. The display that the more modest orchard oriole puts on is much more conventional and, like his dress, perhaps more orthodox and in better taste, though the flamboyant tones of his Baltimore cousin are lacking in both the dress and song of the orchard species.

From the time the wild cherry is out, by the first of May, the wrens in the orchard are singing. They will nest everywhere and there are always at least a couple with me. It doesn't need many more for the purling songs, cool as fast, babbling brooks, to run through the morning's bird concert as prominent undertones. The *timbre* of the wren's song is such that it seems to fill every place near it with sound. It is like Chinese music: there are no "holes" in it.

I hate bird songs that are tentative or stop in the middle, not because the birds which utter them are shy or unattractive (who could say that a black-throated green warbler, a flicker, a redstart, a vireo or a chickadee were unattractive?), but because the song is so much more difficult to identify in only a snatch. That is why I like wrens and thrushes: they always give full value, singing as if their hearts would break.

The yellow warbler I heard that morning is very irritating. I confess I like the musical coolness, *accelerando,* of his song about as much as any bird song I can think of. It is both temperate and hopeful, very musical but not operatic, like a finch's. Yet when I hear this sweet, simple song, I am not always hopeful of finding the singer. He has a most annoyingly insouciant way of singing as he hunts and gleans, and he will sing while hopping about in the interior of the thickest, most twig-sprawling old spruce. Also he sings intermittently and you have to come upon him when his temperament is happy. He usually shuts up when the day is hot and sings best when the overcasting clouds cool the atmosphere off a bit.

Before plunging into the neighboring woods to listen to what there might be in bird songs there, I passed some fields and, as I expected, heard the two songs one always anticipates in such places—the meadow lark's and the field sparrow's. The eastern meadow lark is less gaily plumaged than the meadow lark of the Western States and his song is much less clarion or amplified, but it is sufficiently loud, and of all bird songs, the majority of which are cheery, is one of the most hopeful. As I heard it coming from several fields away that morning, it was like a good gust of fresh wind arising after a calm at sea. Then, apparently in the far distance, broke out a field sparrow. But don't let the quavering character of its trilling song deceive you. The bird is much nearer than you think and shrouded by the density of a single small bush.

On stepping into the woods, I found that certain sounds of the open lands of orchard, lawn and meadow were wiped out. A pheasant shrieked. One no longer heard orioles, and while catbirds were not uncommon and there were a few thrashers at the edge of the wood, little insectlike buzzes began to be heard from cedars and other small trees. Occasionally the emitter of the sound, so faint, so funny, would appear and I could catch a glimmer of bright lemon yellow cheeks fringed below by a black throat. The black-throated green warbler (for the woods were full of them) thus looks both brilliant and whimsical, brilliant because the colors actually

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are so in their pigmental relations and whimsical because he seems like a little gentleman all dressed up with nowhere to go except the cedar trees—which so effectually conceal him.

The taller oaks of this wood are trees favored by the scarlet tanager, who screeches out a robinlike song just as the vireo, who also inhabits this wood, dawdles, lingers, and waits over the one or two reiterated robinlike passages of his, which, however, he can make as sweet as any robin's.

Robins in the wood always seem to me to sing more like thrushes than robins out of it. The particular neighboring wood is filled with wood thrushes, whose song is the most deeply touching of any other American bird-song, and as the notes came up from a swampy bottomland that morning, they were revivifying. When the thrushes weren't singing, and for much of the time that they were, ovenbirds took up the burden. The ovenbird is an interesting creature and rather difficult to find. He has even more than a bird's usual ventriloquial power in making you think he is in one place when he isn't, but although I associate his song with the pleasure of spring woods, I cannot say that musically I regard it very highly. The ovenbirds chattered all the time I was in the woods. For two hours they sat in dark bushes or small trees and sang their refrain, that same "teacher, teacher, teacher," with growing stress and volume, occasionally barely starting it when some extraneous influence would divert their attention and then they would cease after two or three syllables had been uttered. This slow-moving, unexcitable bird always makes me wonder that it is considered to be of the warbler family!

Outside of the yellow warbler's, the chestnut-sided warbler's, and the yellowthroat's songs, which at first seem remarkably similar and of which only the accentuation is distinguishing, warblers' songs are usually the most difficult and intriguing of all, just as the birds themselves, with the possible exception of the vireos, are the most difficult to know. Their songs, with the exceptions noted and one or two others, seem so humble and self-effacing. You feel that they are partly shut off at the end or grow weaker because the bird either does not want you to know anything more about it or because he is already concentrating on something else. In this way the songs of some of our most beautiful warblers go unnoticed. The song, for instance, of the parula warbler, which comes and grubs flutteringly at the festoons of blossoming leaves, has been called nothing but a loud whisper, while for years I thought that that of the blackpoll warbler was the hum of some locustlike insect, which fills the neighboring woods and all the fringes of woods in my part of the country during the last fortnight of May.

MISSION DOCTOR'S WIFE

By CONSTANCE WHITE BLABER

CHINA! China! At last after ten months I am beginning to understand a little about the place. What a surprise it was to me when I landed in Pak Kaai! It was not at all like I had imagined it. When we disembarked, our baggage was taken by women who serve as carriers. Almost every woman I saw was carrying a load on her shoulders and every second woman was carrying a baby on her back in addition to the load on her shoulders. The men were standing in the shops on the street as we passed, staring at the foreigners, smoking long bamboo pipes, and talking, talking incessantly, without stopping to take a breath of air, apparently. All of the sampans that we saw were rowed by women. In the train on the way to Toi Shaan, the women again carried the baggage, while the men sauntered along dreamily or talked to one another excitedly. The most interesting part of the rail trip was when the entire train, engine and all, drew up on a barge and was pulled over a wide river by three cables. I was petrified that the cables would break or that the barge itself would sink—the whole mechanism seemed so frail to me.

A large delegation of Christians awaited our arrival at the Toi Shaan station, and Andrew Kwaan, a medical student, presented us with the keys to the city. Firecrackers preceded and followed us on the way to the mission. What a thrill! When Father McDermott gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament it seemed as though even the Lord Himself welcomed us.

After Benediction, we looked over the hospital, and I must confess I was disappointed. Accustomed to a large institution with every modern improvement and convenience, these few rooms, designated as laboratory, dressing room, pharmacy and examining room, suffered by comparison. The wards seemed frightfully overcrowded, although I heard my husband, Dr. Harry Blaber, congratulating Dr. Bagalawis on the wonderful changes he had made in this department. What a mess it must have been before! But the best was saved for the last, and after examining the kitchen, nurses' quarters and lavatories, I was shown into the operating room. It was almost ideal. It was immaculately clean, and boasted of a decent sterilizer and a spotlessly clean scrub sink. In fact it was very much like the operating rooms in American hospitals.

We then went to our home. Harry said this Chinese flat was the best that could be found in Toi Shaan. Four very long steep flights of stairs led to our apartment, the entrances to which were barred by iron gratings. These puzzled me a bit, but I soon found out that they were absolutely essential in China.

After spending a few days in adding the feminine touch to Harry's interior decoration of our home, I went over to the hospital to help him. I was surprised to find that the nurses were so well trained. It is a men's hospital and the nurses are all male, one of whom, especially, is exceptionally efficient.

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I assisted Harry at several obstetrical cases in Chinese homes, but it seemed almost impossible for him to keep sterile. He had to scrub for ten minutes in a dirty basin of water, then after soaking his hands in bichloride of mercury for five minutes, and again in alcohol for the same length of time, he would put on a sterile gown and gloves and finally put a patient with sterile sheets on a bed which probably had not been cleaned for ten years, and in a room in which cobwebs were much more in evidence than the pictures on the wall. However, every one of these patients came through without an infection.

It is pathetic to see some of the poor women turned away who really need hospital attention. About ten days ago one of the Christians came to the hospital asking if we would accept a female patient who was dying. The landlord would not allow this woman to remain in the house overnight because he was afraid that she would die. Harry told the Christian lady that the patient could enter our death-house but she could not come into the hospital because we had room for male patients only. He said we would go to the patient's home and diagnose her condition. When we visited the patient we found that she was under the close observation of the landlord, who was taking every precaution against a death in his house. Examination showed that she was suffering from malaria, bronchitis and acute nephritis. After several injections we withdrew and had a consultation with the owner. We assured him that the patient would live until morning, and begged him to allow her to stay in his house until we returned the following day. Finally, after much argument, the landlord gave the desired permission.

The following day the patient's temperature was lower and she was able to eat a little rice soup. We gave a few more injections, and left some medicine for her. On the way out we met the owner of the house, and he was in a much brighter mood than he was the previous night. He was very grateful to us because we did not allow the patient to die during the night. What ideas these people have about medicine!

The woman gradually improved and is now convalescing. She has asked to be baptized. When we are able to staff our Women's Hospital, we shall not have to turn away so many of these poor souls because they are women.

The Silent Artist

Knowing how tenuous the patterns are
That mind and nerves weave out of sight and air,
How trembling and winged, how come from far,
How faint and lovely, how fading fair;
Knowing but little of this darker birth
By which the charmed word flies into the heart,
By which the shaping of the sculptor's earth
Enchants the senses and the quick tears start:
I have no wisdom of them but this thing:
No matter how the blood surge in the vein,
No matter how the rhythms beat and sing,
Tell no man that with you Beauty has lain.
Else she will fly you. But being first alone
And secret—then sing fair or chisel stone!

CRIMMINS CURTIN.

Communications

SWARTHMORE COMMUNISTS
A FORMAL PROTEST

Philadelphia, Pa.

TO the Editor: We, the undersigned, hereby enter an emphatic protest against a number of glaring misstatements contained in the article erroneously entitled, "Swarthmore Communists," which appeared in the May 14 issue of THE COMMONWEAL. The purport of this article was an account of a meeting under the auspices of various youth organizations of Philadelphia to raise money to alleviate the suffering in Loyalist Spain.

According to this story, the chairman of the meeting, Dr. Karl Scholz, one of the undersigned, "plunged into a violent attack denouncing America, announcing 'that the dominating classes would have to be done away with before communistic dictatorship could come into power and that then out of Communism would evolve democracy and a classless society such as the Soviet Union maintains.' "

This statement is an unqualified falsehood. The fact is that the chairman devoted his opening remarks to an objective interpretation of the various political theories of the different parties engaged in the Spanish Civil War. As your correspondent inconsistently admits, the audience was conservative. It represented a cross-section of the life of Philadelphia. It had no political or religious color, being composed of people of all parties and vocations, including clergymen, lawyers, teachers, bankers and businessmen, with perhaps a preponderance of students. Reporters were present from leading Philadelphia newspapers and not a single word which would support your correspondent's account appeared in any of these papers, though such a statement from such a man would have been news of the most sensational character. The chairman has been appearing for years before audiences of all shades of political opinion in this city and in various other parts of the country, discussing Communism, Fascism and other political doctrines, without a single question as to either his absolute objectivity or his loyalty ever being raised before. As a member of the Emergency Peace Campaign and an avowed pacifist, he has deprecated violence at all times as a means of social amelioration. He is an outspoken champion of democracy against Fascism on the one side and Communism on the other. Obviously your correspondent is a victim of the obsession that anyone who is not a Fascist is a Communist.

The article is equally erroneous in the account of Mr. Hart's speech. Furthermore, Dr. MacCallum was called to the platform immediately on his late arrival and therefore could say nothing about what had been said, simply expressing his profound sympathy with the Loyalist cause as the effort of a frustrated and repressed people to realize the most elementary human rights. He also stated that the Loyalist government is not anti-religious but anti-clerical. According to your correspondent, this is blasphemy, a misinterpretation similar to that of her failure to realize that the chairman is an educator rather

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than a propagandist, endeavoring to teach people how to think rather than what to think, and therefore is always ready to present all sides in a controversial issue.

The publication of this letter will be a proof of fair play on the part of THE COMMONWEAL.

KARL SCHOLZ,
University of Pennsylvania.
J. A. MACCALLUM, *Minister,*
Walnut Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.

A REPLY

Stamford, Conn.

TO the Editor: A "formal protest" has been launched by two gentlemen who feel that my article appearing in THE COMMONWEAL for May 14, entitled "Swarthmore Communists," contains glaring "misstatements," and that I have created "erroneous impressions."

Needless to say I am full of humble apology for whatever "falsity" I have written. I am sorry these gentlemen from the benign Quaker City feel they have been "misquoted." May I remind them that I was a total stranger to the ways of Philadelphia, and as such none of the speakers were known to me? I was therefore naturally unaware that the "chairman was an avowed pacifist, an outspoken champion of democracy against Fascism on the one side, and Communism on the other."

Apparently my eyes and ears played strange tricks on me the night I went to Lulu Hall. I went anxious to learn something about the Loyalist cause. I left feeling I knew a great deal about the Communists and very little about the Loyalists. Of course I realize I must have been very wrong in carrying away this impression.

I bought my ticket.

I was deluged with leaflets and pamphlets once inside the hall.

I became aware on reaching my seat that I was the only person in that section of the audience without a red ribbon. Those minus this potent badge were tearing off bits of red ribbon and displaying it proudly. Of course until then I had not realized that red was the color connected with the Loyalist cause.

I noticed the audience was "conservative"—yes, that's just it, very conservative—and that is just what I was trying to drive home in my article. That was the only thing that kept me in the hall, as obviously from the conversation around me, from the display of red and from the leaflets distributed, I felt I had made some mistake and gone to the wrong place.

I found that the headings of the leaflets distributed were interesting: Leaflet No. 1—"David Levinson, recently expelled from Brazil, will speak at the Paris Commune-Spain Commemoration. . . . H. Peoples, now back after 18 months in Soviet Union, will speak on youth. . . ." Leaflet No. 2—"You can get Webb's 'Soviet Communism' or Lenin's 'Works' free! . . . Here are the terms. . . ." Leaflet No. 3—"Philadelphia Workers School . . . for a broad, deep and sound, truly cultural Marxist-Leninist education. . . ." Among classes given I picked out (a) "Laboratory course . . . special reference to Marxist material and proletarian culture. . . ."; (b) "12-week course by Mac Harris, section organizer, Communist party, practical training for public speaking, agitation and propaganda, . . . etc. . . . etc."

From a booklet of pictures of anti-Fascisti propaganda, I pick out two pages and quote the headlines: "Fascism Pounces. . . . Look at the faces below, examine them closely—if you can. Your skin crawls, you shudder in horror! This is the lesson of Fascism; this is what Fascism, stretching its tentacles from Berlin to Rome, has done to a peace-loving people. . . ." The pictures given to us for contemplation were nine ghastly ones of dead and disfigured children, above them pictures of "Hitler and Mussolini" and "Stooge No. 1 . . . General Franco and Staff."

I could find an excuse for the booklet. It was the type of propaganda we had seen used during the World War to incite hatred not compassion. But if that meeting had no "political or religious color," it is strange that the boys and girls distributing these leaflets took a keen interest in the lecture and my usher had handed me one leaflet of communistic propaganda.

I had not come to report. I had no paper and after using the backs of leaflets borrowed a sheet from my red-beribboned neighbor, to continue my notes. If the chairman who addressed us felt he was giving his hearers an outline of the "various political theories of the different parties engaged in the Spanish Civil War," he certainly worded his phrases so vaguely that they were misunderstood. I for one cannot recall that he even mentioned the Rebels, nor did he then appeal to us for assistance of any kind to the Loyalist cause. Is it not rather odd that there were constant cheers, constant applause whenever he spoke of the Soviet Union, or mentioned Communism?

Dr. J. A. MacCallum takes exception to my statement. Yet Dr. MacCallum seems to overlook the fact that I did mention that he was late. Dr. MacCallum was not present at the opening discourse. He was not present at the first violent outbursts of applause and enthusiasm demonstrating approval of the Soviet cause. Apparently Dr. MacCallum who was late took it for granted that we the hearers had been initiated into the needs and wants of the Loyalist cause. But at that early stage nothing of the sort had been done. Yes, we had been told the benefits we Americans would derive once America became a classless society—and our dominating classes had been done away with. How was I to guess that Dr. MacCallum had not known what was to be discussed? How was I to know that he was not in favor of Communism? Apparently he had been misled, as I had, as to the cause of that meeting. Apparently this minister of the Gospel took it for granted that we had been told about the sufferings of the poor and hungry and needy and gave the cause God's blessing and approval. While instead we had been told a very different story—and our interest centered on a focus not in Spain but far-off Russia. To me it sounded very much like blasphemy to hear a minister give his sanction and approval on what

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had preceded his arrival. After all, those of us who have been making a study of Russia know that in the Communist fight for the proletariat God is being eradicated from the lives of its people.

I therefore gladly apologize to Dr. MacCallum and am glad he has given me this opportunity to rectify the idea that he was communistic and communistically inclined. Had I been a mind-reader this would not have been necessary, for I would have understood that he had come to openly back the Loyalist cause and had taken it for granted we were being informed about the Loyalist needs.

Apparently these gentlemen find that my article is "equally erroneous in the account of Mr. Hart's speech." First of all I want it clearly understood that I was not a press representative of the Rebel party. What cause would induce me to jump at figures, and jot them down, and then quote them, if they had not been given to us? Why should I bring out facts concerning the Church which are distinctly false? Were we not informed that "Catholic priests and religious have not suffered from the hands of Communists"? Were we not told that "the Catholic Church of Spain has recognized Communism"? I know that no Catholic can be a Communist and be in communion with the Roman Catholic Church. I know that Pope Pius XI has openly denounced Communism and the Godless campaign it has fostered. Pope Pius XI has called on Catholics and right-thinking men and women throughout the entire world to wage an open war against their insidious lies and methods.

Besides falsifying facts concerning the Catholic Church in Spain, this gentleman to prove his point used the names of two members of the American hierarchy. Had I heard incorrectly the first time, I had a second opportunity to listen to this denouncement when we were told: "I repeat . . . that in spite of what Cardinal Dougherty and Cardinal Hayes maintain . . . Catholic priests are on the side of Communism . . . the Catholic Church of Spain has recognized Communism. . . ."

Was I not perfectly justified in exposing to Catholics what was brought to the attention of the public at Lulu Hall? Certainly the sarcasm of the speaker had the effect he wished—for when he deliberately mentioned these eminent ecclesiastics his comment provoked laughter, loud applause and sneers. Am I to sit still and hear two American Cardinals used as targets for communistic propaganda? Am I to pretend that I misunderstood why they were being classified as unreliable? Is not His Eminence Cardinal Dougherty known here and abroad for his spirit of justice and great-hearted benevolence? Is not His Eminence Cardinal Hayes preeminently outstanding from one end of America to the other for his tolerance, for his intellectual honesty, for his all-embracing charity, a man revered and honored by Protestant, Jew and Catholic?

Since my opponents claim that "the meeting had no political or religious color"—why were the names of two Cardinals brought up for criticism? Why were we given only communistic propaganda? Why was there repeated cheering over Soviet Russia and Communism and what Russia was doing for Spain and not a single cheer for the United States?

Gentlemen, I am quite prepared to have you tell me that my eyes and ears have deceived me. Since you specify that this meeting "had no religious or political color" I conclude that I must be color blind. I've learned a lesson, though, and the next time I attend a meeting of this sort I will make a point of bringing along a second party, we will take notes and submit our joint written reports to the press.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, you and those who spoke so in favor of Communism have something many of us lack. I wish to use this occasion to express to you my admiration for your fire and flame. Perhaps you might lend me some of your ardor. I'd give a great deal to learn the cause of your zeal—for I would like to emulate your spirit and exert it not in leveling but in broadcasting a spirit of tolerance and the love of God.

MARIELI G. BENZIGER.

A NEEDED LIBRARY

Ossining, N. Y.

TO the Editor: I am trying to assemble a library of distinctively Catholic books: books on the lives of saints, novels which are really Catholic novels, such as the works of Robert Hugh Benson, spiritual books that we might class as spiritual reading, books on apologetics or dogmatic subjects, books that are thoroughly Catholic. These would be read by the Catholic inmates or non-Catholic inmates of Sing Sing Prison. The library would constitute a lending library to be used in the chaplain's office and to be loaned out to the inmates under the supervision of the chaplain. Such a library, although small, would accomplish a great deal of good in the prison.

Inmates have been asking me lately for just such books, books on spiritual reading and lives of the saints, and answers to the ordinary objections put up to them by the atheists in the prison yard. I know that there must be many second-hand books around which have been read and which the readers could spare for this prison library. If any of your readers have such books we would be very grateful to them if they would send them to us.

If you will be good enough to publish this letter, you may be sure I shall be grateful and that the Catholic inmates of our prison will appreciate the kindness of your readers in sending us these books.

REV. JOHN P. MCCAFFREY,
Chaplain, Sing Sing Prison.

COLLEGIUM GREGORIANUM

Victoria, B. C.

TO the Editor: Apropos your kindly notice of the Collegium Gregorianum at Victoria, British Columbia, on page 74 of the May 14 issue of THE COMMONWEAL, the Benedictines of Collegeville gave the Collegium encouragement and affiliation, they did not organize it; that was the work of a young convert layman—Mr. Victor Montaldi.

REV. J. L. BRADLEY.

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Seven Days' Survey

The Church.—Eight members of the American hierarchy and 1,000 delegates representing 300,000 members in the United States, are expected at the seventh national convention of the Catholic Laymen's Retreat Associations at San Francisco, June 25-27. * * * Reverend Martinez Silva, S.J., a native Mexican, and Reverend Martin Habig, S.J., a native of Alsace, have been named as rector and procurator respectively of the new Montezuma Seminary, near Las Vegas, N. M., where Mexican seminarians will be trained for the priesthood. * * * Bishop Karl J. Alter of Toledo, Ohio, has written the pastors in his diocese on the subject of the persecution of the Church in Germany, asking them "to bring these matters to the attention of our Catholic people and request their prayers so that freedom of conscience may be reestablished and that true peace and harmony may be restored for the welfare of religion and the salvation of souls." * * * At the fifth Canadian Conference on Social Work at Ottawa, it was announced that the adult education movement sponsored by St. Francis Xavier University of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, now numbers 30,000 people. Many who have just learned to read and write are building libraries, securing music and like forms of recreation and planning health programs. Regional libraries to supply small local libraries is a recent project of the university. * * * The Belgian Peasant League (Boerenbond), which experienced severe difficulties two years ago, is enjoying a marked revival. In 1936, there were 116,840 persons enrolled in 1,252 local guilds. At the annual meeting the tenth anniversary of the Young Farmers' League was commemorated and a high Mass was celebrated in the marketplace of Louvain. * * * Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State, has been appointed by the Holy Father to be Legate to the festival at Lisieux, France, on the occasion of the inauguration next month of the Church of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus. * * * Charles D. Magenns of Boston, first president of the Liturgical Arts Society, has been unanimously elected president of the American Institute of Architects.

The Nation.—The Department of Commerce announced that our 1936 national income amounted to $63,800,000,000, up 16 percent from 1935. Goods and services produced were valued 60 percent higher than in 1932 but were still one-fifth below the 1929 level. Labor's share in national income paid out during 1936 was 66.5 percent, compared with 65.5 percent in 1929 and 64 percent in 1932. Dividend payments increased in percentage from 5.6 in 1935 to 7.4 in 1936. * * * A new appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court by a Scottsboro boy was rejected, and the matter is expected to come again before the federal Supreme Court. * * * June 15, war debt default day, passed off in customary fashion, only Finland of the thirteen debtor nations making payment. * * * The Home Owners' Loan Corporation entered its fifth year of operations last week. During the next two years, when, as during the past year, it will be strictly a collecting and servicing agency, the policy upon which it was founded will be deeply tested. Are moratoriums in the home field wise? Do the people who got the loans really want to keep them, or were they simply taking a financial opportunity? Were the properties, assessed during the depression, correctly valued? The HOLC has bonds outstanding worth $3,187,695,225. In 18 percent of its cases there was some trouble in principal and interest collection on April 30. By that time it had been forced to recover 35,666 properties and had sold 1,514 of them and rented 23,351. * * * Jersey Homesteads, decentralized cooperative set up and built under the Resettlement Administration, proved that its initiative had not been sapped by government assistance. Slowness of the RA in finishing construction work in the settlement, and the RA's refusal to grant the cooperative enterprise that operates the clothing factory on the land a loan of $50,000 for operating capital, led the cooperative to seek money from nongovernmental sources. With the support of consumers' cooperatives, the homesteaders successfully found the money. * * * Farm legislation was definitely abandoned for this session of Congress.

The Wide World.—While Nationalist troops advanced to the very gates of Bilbao, sixteen diplomats from widely separated posts converged on Valencia for a conference with the new Negrin government. This period is regarded as most critical for the Loyalist cause, both internally and internationally. French Consul Casteran, rescued from Bilbao, asserted that the city was in dire straits. Basques struggled to prevent Anarchists from burning the city. Thousands of children were evacuated to Britain, France and other countries. Refugees sought safety in Santander. Nationalist officers declared it would require several days to complete the encircling movement. * * * Constantin von Neurath, German Foreign Minister, concluded his tour of Jugoslavia, Bulgaria and Hungary for the alleged dual purpose of creating a new Central European bloc and preventing the consolidation of the Danubian states which the governments of Czechoslovakia, Austria and Hungary are trying to achieve. He will visit England next week for "an exchange of views on matters of common interest to the two countries and particularly the Spanish problem." Premier Milan Hodza of Czechoslovakia visited Prague and will attend a joint meeting of Little Entente Premiers. For the first time since the war a German army leader, General Ludwig Beck, chief of the German general staff, will go to Paris to confer with General Marie Gustave Gamelin, chief of the French general staff. Having achieved progress in localizing the Spanish conflict, diplomats are now discussing the possibility of a Western

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European security pact. * * *The Dail Eireann approved President Eamon de Valera's draft Constitution and was dissolved. Former President Congrave announced that he would campaign against the Constitution. The Irish electorate will decide the issue on July 1. * * * The British government, replying to Italy's recent action in forbidding foreign missonaries to carry on their work in Ethiopia, reserved "the right to consider" the expulsion of Italian missionaries from Malta and other parts of the British Empire. No immediate action is contemplated.

* * * *

Supreme Court Plan.—The President refused to comment on the adverse Senate Judiciary Committee report of June 14 and told reporters that he was eager to put his federal court plan to a vote. This report, which was adopted after four months' study by a majority of 10 to 8, included considerable documentation and much denunciation. The bill's Supreme Court provisions came in for the most extended comment. The Senate report said in part: "The bill does not accomplish any one of the objectives for which it was originally offered. It applies force to the judiciary, and in its initial and ultimate effect would undermine the independence of the courts. It violates all precedents in the history of our government and would in itself be a dangerous precedent for the future. . . . This is the first time in the history of our country that a proposal to alter the decisions of the Court by enlarging its personnel has been so boldly made. Let us meet it. Let us now set a salutary precedent that will never be violated. Let us of the Seventy-fifth Congress, in words that will never be disregarded by any succeeding Congress, declare that we would rather have an independent Court, a fearless Court, a Court that will dare to announce its honest opinions in what it believes to be the defense of the liberties of the people, than a Court that, out of fear or sense of obligation to the appointing power, or factional passion, approves any measure we may enact. We are not the judges of the judges. . . . We recommend the rejection of this bill as a needless, futile and utterly dangerous abandonment of constitutional principle. It was presented to the Congress in a most intricate form and for reasons that obscured its real purpose. It would not banish age from the bench nor abolish divided decisions. . . . It contains the germ of a system of centralized administration of law that would enable an executive so minded to send his judges into every judicial district in the land to sit in judgment on controversies between the government and the citizen. . . . Its ultimate operation would be to make this government one of men rather than of law. . . ."

Picket Lines.—Important but indecisive byplay developed in the steel war. The President expressed a reserved opinion that companies willing to make oral agreements should be willing to put them in writing. Senator Wagner said the sprit of his law was broken by refusal to do so. Congress moved toward an investigation of the mail controversy and the whole steel situation, including the arming of the plants. The Republic Steel went to court to force the Post Office to make deliveries within their struck plants. The union invoked the Wagner Act against the Inland Steel Company. John L. Lewis called out the miners in the struck companies' coal mines, and vigorously attacked Eugene Grace of Bethlehem Steel and W. C. Potter of the Guaranty Trust Company as leaders of the anti-union drive. Governor Davey of Ohio held a series of unsuccessful conferences with employers and employees. The main point, however, is the picket line. When deputized Monroe, Mich., citizens broke up the line that kept men from the local Republic subsdiary, all of the C.I.O. unions in the region were barely kept from immediately marching en masse upon the little town to reestablish it. Ten thousand finally came on Sunday, but Governor Murphy was there with state police and national guardsmen and contending factions were kept from each other and there was no violence. On June 15, very carefully restricted picket lines again began marching, under the protection of state troopers but so crippled by regulations that they seemed doomed to ineffectuality. In Johnstown, Penn., a line blocking a Bethlehem plant was smashed through by supply cars and during the ensuing mêlée twelve men were seriously injured. Mills in Youngstown, Ohio, have workers inside who need supplies, and getting them there has been a big problem to those who are against the union. That is where the mail trouble arose, and there, also, great groups have been deputized to control the picket lines. Meanwhile, Governor Davey's efforts were postponing an ultimate test of strength.

Tax Dodgers.—The Treasury Department is expected to play a major rôle in the public hearings before the Joint Congressional Committee which will undertake an immediate investigation of tax avoidance or evasion on the part of individuals and corporations. Hearings are expected to continue for three weeks. The committee, on the basis of information obtained and with the aid of taxation experts, will endeavor to draft legislation that will eliminate at least some of the loopholes in existing revenue laws. Both Representative Doughton, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and Chairman Harrison of the Senate Finance Committee announced, after a conference with President Roosevelt, that they favored making public the names of tax evaders. If tax evaders want to appear and testify, it was stated, the committee will let them do so. Treasury officials launched an investigation when it was discovered that the quarterly income tax returns in March were below expectations. This preliminary investigation revealed that clever devices were being employed in an increasing number of cases to avoid taxation. It is predicted that, once the loopholes are closed and recoveries obtained, the amount will aid greatly in budget balancing. As an additional means of keeping the federal income nearer to a balanced budget the House adopted a resolution extending the "nuisance" taxes on gasoline, theatre admissions, sporting goods, petroleum and many other commodities, and the three-cent postage rate, for two more years. The estimated yield is $600,000,000.

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Non-Catholic Religious Activities.—The Peace Education Committee of the World's Sunday School Association has asked all cooperating associations in every part of the world to designate November 7 as a day of Peace Celebration for the 38,000,000 members of the Sunday Schools of the world. The emphasis is to be laid upon the fellowship and spiritual solidarity of Christian children in all lands. This is regarded as the first step in a far-reaching and continuous program of peace education through church schools. * * * Assurances that the Italian government plans no change in policy toward its Jewish population whom it regards highly, and that recent attacks against the Jews in the Italian press are not signficant of government attitude, have been received by the American Jewish Congress from Italian Minister Fulvio Suvich, according to an announcement made by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress. * * * Gambling in all its forms was condemned as "essentially immoral" in a report made by the Committee on Moral and Social Welfare to the Evangelical Synod of Maryland at its recent meeting in Baltimore. The report cited the "staggering sum of $31,555,353" spent last year at the pari-mutuels, with an estimated $20,000,000 bet in addition on the side. Also, the report stated, from $3,000,000,000 to $6,000,000,000 are sent from the United States annually to foreign lotteries. * * * Organized only a year ago with a half-dozen business men representing nearly as many denominations, the Christian Business Men's Committee of Detroit has increased its membership to 1,900 and represents twenty-one denominations. The major activities of the group have consisted in evangelical work among children and among the people of outlying districts whose churches have been closed. Both these activities have been aided by the use of the committee's Gospel trailer which will be of even greater help during the summer open air services.

French Equilibrium.—For the third time within ten months, as opponents of the French Popular Front government emphasized with hostile frankness, the French Treasury found itself quite empty in the middle of June. The Chamber met this situation during a long session, June 15-16, under most trying circumstances. On June 11, the Senate had thrown out an administration bill passed by the Chamber, setting up the 40-hour week in the restaurant and hotel industries. Conservative opposition to the Blum government was apparently solidifying and incorporating within itself large blocs of the Radical-Socialists. On June 14, Professor Charles Rist and Paul Baudoin, supposedly non-political expert members of the management committee of the Exchange Equalization fund, resigned their places because government finances were being handled in a way they felt was hopeless. The executions of Russian officials, especially of the eight generals, was a matter of great, if uncertain, importance to French foreign policy. Her Soviet treaty seemed to give her far less direct support, and certain influential groups in England were believed to favor a rapprochement with Germany and a policy of disinterest in Russia, which would be expanded to include Russia's allies, particularly France. In the Chamber session Premier Blum asked for authority to govern the financial side of affairs by decree for a period of six weeks. The Radical-Socialists finally gave their support on the understanding that new taxes would lean toward the indirect rather than direct, thus not penalizing too much the bourgeoisie. The Communists created a sensation by holding up their support, insisting that no measures be taken which would raise the cost of living. They said they would support some other Popular Front government. They were believed to be also desirous of lending more support to the loyalist Spanish government. After balancing for twenty hours most dangerously between these Left and Right wings of his government, Premier Blum finally came through with the Popular Front intact, but weakened in number and spirit more than it has been since he took office a little over a year ago.

Genuine Catholic Unity.—*Sept,* the excellent weekly published by the French Dominican Fathers, recently devoted an issue to a consideration of the nature of a true union of Catholics. It cites a number of pertinent statements from the writings of recent Popes and quotes the appeal of Cardinal Verdier, Archbishop of Paris, "With the grave dangers that threaten us and in view of the tremendous work that is imposed upon all Catholics, is not unity the first duty for everyone?" One of the features of the issue is an interview with Jacques Maritain, who takes the stand that while "in spiritual matters . . . union is a prime necessity," a wide diversity in opinions and activities is essential in temporal matters. M. Maritain says, "Catholic Action demands in its sphere the union of all Catholics; political action, on the contrary, implies a normal diversity among them. Catholic Action in its sphere must develop in groups that are exclusively Catholic; political action in a civilization that is divided in religion normally calls for collaboration with non-Catholics. . . . When a man has left all things for Jesus Christ . . . he does not do so in order to enter into the service of the world, regardless of its character, or to take part in the utilization of religion for any extraneous purpose; it is certain that he will adapt himself with difficulty to orders given by the adherents of a party. . . . Where the Church has not spoken officially and where her traditional doctrine is not in question, the union of Catholics, which is so desirable and so necessary, is and must be above all a union of charity, mutual respect and common inspiration toward the diversity of positions which seem true and just to each." M. Maritain believes that much may be accomplished by more frequent discussions among Catholic advocates of various opposing political views and recommends the establishment of numerous meeting places for that purpose.

Good Advice.—Baccalaureate and commencement addresses showered their annual quota of wise words on the young. No increasing optimism reflected any rise from the depression. RFC chairman Jesse H. Jones, doctor of Temple University, sounded a note which was repeated many times during the week—about self-reliance.

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First saying that the issuance of over $15,000,000,000 in government credit was "the principal factor in recovery," he went on to warn: "People must support their government and not expect the government to support them. . . . Just how we are to get back to self-reliance and quit demanding so much of the government will test the wits and ingenuity of all of us. Habits are not easily broken, and we have gotten into the habit of expecting everything of the federal government." Bernard M. Baruch spoke on somewhat the same subject at Union College. He said the crash had shown "the staring necessity to temper the raw doctrine of laissez-faire with the age-old lesson of our race, that we must not lie down dumbly under the destructive effect of natural law. To regulate everything in a country of the size and complexity of ours is an infinite task for which there is little, if any, experience. Woodrow Wilson, in giving instructions for an immense industrial regulation under the stress of war, laid down a rule which at least worked, to leave alone what is being well done, to administer only that which is ill. . . . In brief summation, the elements of a sound solution of our problem are: to confine our regulatory efforts to the uneconomic areas of our curve of progress, and not try to regulate everything; to proceed to action only after careful study and never on emotional impulse; and, above all, to apply and adapt the natural laws that govern our economy and never seek to repeal or obstruct them." In rugged Dartmouth, President Hopkins told his graduates: "No real friend of yours could wish that you should never face misfortune, that you should never undergo hardship, that you should never be beset by difficulties. It is not so that vigor of mind or strength of character is developed." In New York, Father Shea told Fordham graduates that "to urge you to be conquerors apart from faith in God would be bombast. Most talks today about leadership are stuff and nonsense. They ask a man by human strength alone to breast the waves that crush ships. . . . Faith teaches a man to make the best of this life, to conquer obstacles, to make of trials a cross, and, carrying this cross daily, to be a conqueror of himself and of the world."

* * * *

Housing Program.—After a conference with the President, Senator Wagner of New York announced that there was less divergence between his housing bill and the Treasury Department's proposal than had at first been supposed. On the air, June 13, the Senator defended the Wagner-Steagall method at some length. "The system of annual contributions has many merits. It provides a constant check against extravagance and waste in the operation of projects. It enables the government to stop its contributions at any time, if the full benefit does not accrue to those who need low rentals, or if people with higher incomes are allowed to come into the project. It is more prudent than a huge capital grant at the beginning, just as a trust fund is more prudent than a gift. It is the only method . . . which really reaches the underprivileged poor. . . . Rent reductions each year are a continuing social benefit . . . and should be paid for in the year in which they occur. . . . To compress into 1937 alone the whole cost of paying for rent reductions for sixty years results inevitably in cutting down our housing program to negligible proportions." Interviewed by the New York *Times* on the occasion of a visit to this country to deliver an address before the national conference on housing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sir Raymond Unwin, British architect and expert in housing and town planning, tended to substantiate these contentions. He said that the difficulty with low-cost housing was that years of experience showed that rents tend to rise as the houses grow older and living standards rise, making subsidies necessary for low-income groups. Sir Raymond cited the 31,186 homes built in England with a lump sum government grant after the World War and declared that "so far as helping low-income class housing the money might just as well be thrown into the sea." He believed that some flexibility should be allowed local authorities on subsidies to specific houses and said that his only criticism of the Wagner-Steagall bill was that "it appears to tie up the central authority to making the grant for the whole sixty years."

Wage-Hours Finale.—Senator Borah made a proposal before the Senate Committee on Wages and Hours to close state borders to firms which were found guilty of monopolistic practises. The Senator was in complete agreement with Robert H. Jackson, Assistant Attorney General, that Congress had the power to regulate goods in shipment between states which for any reason are contrary to sound national policy. He also agreed with Mr. Jackson and others versed in the Constitution that Congress, if it chose to do so, could regulate insufficient wages and sweatshop conditions in so far as they affect the intercourse of goods between states. John L. Lewis appeared before the committee to support the bill generally but expressed strong opposition to the clause abrogating wage contracts through collective bargaining. President Roosevelt let it be known that, while he conceded Mr. Borah's objective, he nevertheless preferred to have the bill in its present form. Senator Black concurred. As the hearings progressed, the wage-fixing provision was sharply criticized as "more riotous than the N.I.R.A." Business leaders assailed to constitutionality of the bill in regard to wages, asserting that industry would be put in a strait-jacket. Senator Black retorted that industry was going to face some kind of regulation and that industrialists and manufacturers should try to cooperate with Congress in determining fair labor standards. Dr. Claudius T. Murchison president of the Cotton Textile Institute, stated that the bill was contrary to American principles and "not in accordance with our ideals on industrial enterprises." Sidney Hillman president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America opposed Mr. Lewis's objections to section five of the bill, pointing out that if that part of the bill was dropped the Democratic party would violate election promises. Hearings are scheduled to conclude in a few days.

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The Play and Screen

Richard II

"RICHARD II" has just closed its New York engagement after one of the longest runs ever attained by a Shakespeare play. To those who know Shakespearean stage history this has been peculiarly significant. "Richard II" has never been a popular play even in England, while in New York it had only previously been performed six times, the last performance being by Edwin Booth in 1878. What is the reason for its present success? That the revived interest in the poetic drama made its production possible is of course true, but the failures of the two recent productions of "Othello" and of last season's "Macbeth" show that the mere name of Shakespeare is not enough to win popular suffrage. Yet "Richard II," hitherto considered a closet drama, has run for nearly 150 nights and afternoons. The fact that the part of Richard himself was magnificently portrayed by Maurice Evans is, of course, largely responsible. Mr. Evans gave a glowing, varied, colorful interpretation. He was able to project the initial frivolity of the man, then his tortured misgivings, finally a mind intellectualized by suffering. Moreover he read the lines with a fine understanding of their meaning and yet with a mastery of their innate music. The reason why Shakespeare has seemed often so dull and tame has been that a generation of actors trained in the naturalistic manner has been incapable of giving the language with the fire and the majesty inherent in the Elizabethan drama. A generation of actors to whom the sense is everything and the sound nothing is ill equipped to cope with plays in which the sound is necessary to project the sense, while even those actors who might have been able to do this were often frightened into compliance by the fear that they would be denominated "hams."

The truth is that those who would act Shakespeare, at least his tragedies, with the exception perhaps of "Hamlet," must not fear to give rein to their emotions and must understand that blank verse is meant for the ear. This is what Mr. Evans and the company supporting him have understood and given to their fullest. Take for instance the first scene of "Richard II." The reader trained in visualizing modern realistic plays finds it is almost impossible to understand how these long speeches can be made effective—until he sees the play given as it is under Margaret Webster's direction. Then he realizes that its effectiveness is electric precisely because the actors storm at each other with sound and fury, which far from signifying nothing, illuminates both the spirit and the meaning of the play. In other words they have not been afraid of being labeled "hams," and have given the scene in precisely the manner in which it was conceived and intended to be acted. Mr. Evans and his fellow actors realize that the still small voice has small place in the classic or romantic drama, and that those who approach it must do it lustily, with a feeling for its rhythm and verbal music. This does not mean that they have neglected the sense nor that they tear the emotions to tatters. They bring out the sense splendidly, but in doing it they do not sacrifice the poetry of the lines and the majesty of rhythm. Here in "Richard II," to paraphrase the poet's own words, is Shakespeare in his habit as he lived.

The Cat and the Canary

THE REVIVAL under Ben Lundy's direction of melodramatic successes has caught its stride in John Willard's "The Cat and the Canary." While not a perfect performance of this slightly dated, but still exciting thriller it is an adequate one, and in two of the performers as fine as was the original. Helen Claire's Annabelle, is in every respect admirable, and Howard Miller as the stuttering hero amusing and vivid. Miss Claire ought to make a name for herself in the theatre. She has good looks, charm, intelligence and distinction. She is one of the most promising and attractive young actresses of the year. As the most expensive seat costs only $1 the lovers of thrills receive more than their money's worth at this revival. (At the Majestic Theatre.)

GRENVILLE VERNON.

The Coronation in Color

FOR THE first time in contemporary motion picture history, an international event of top headline importance and splendor has been photographed by the newsreel in sound and full color—in Technicolor.

The lateness of these pictures of the coronation of King George and Queen Elizabeth, last May 12, following the black-and-white pictures by more than a month (nor has a release date been set even now), is attributable to the time required for laboratory treatment, indicating that perhaps the newsreel camera is not yet ready to color "spot news." But, no news happening could express more convincingly the possibilities for newsreel color, for here we find pictured, and with splendid pictorial results, all of the riotous color of the pomp, pageantry and parades of robes and jewels and crowns and throngs of the biggest show that has been staged in more than a quarter-century.

While the pictorial effects are many times superior to those of the coronation films already shown without color, they are not nearly as dramatic, for the color cameras were not permitted within Westminster Abbey. Where the black-and-white cameras filmed the actual crownihg ceremonies, Technicolor had to resort to substitutes in the nature of paintings picturing the important moments in the Abbey.

The production runs some four reels, about two-thirds the length of the average film, and while it is fast losing timeliness, it does have very definite values both for study and historical interest, taking much footage in the first parts to depict the scenic exteriors and pompous inner halls of the various castles and mansions of the House of Windsor, and to show many members of the royal families sitting in their own rooms in beautiful coronation robes of ermine and gold. There are frequent references to the abdication by Duke Edward, and several other questionable instances of editing.

JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM.

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Books

Christianity and Islam

The Crusades: The World's Debate, by Hilaire Belloc. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company. $3.00.

AMONG the popular authors of historical books Hilaire Belloc excels in his wide knowledge, his clear Catholic philosophy and his gift of fascinating presentation. It is true, he simplifies the facts. There are chiefly two or three ideas he is fond of and to which he likes to subordinate a multitude of facts. Those historical happenings which prove unpleasant enough not to agree with these leading tendencies are unscrupulously neglected. The specialist interested in historical research may blame this method, but the average reader certainly enjoys it. Belloc is not a photographer of personages and ages, who gives as many details as possible; he is a painter, presenting an interpretation of his own.

In his new readable book on the Crusades two ideas predominate: the rivalry of Christianity and Islam; and the strategy of the Crusaders to seize the small bridge of fertile land between the Mediterranean and the deserts of Asia, in this way separating the world of Islam by a Christian "corridor." The author gives a thorough picture of just these two problems, haughtily disregarding the others. The cultural history of the Crusades is hardly touched upon at all.

Belloc has an excellent understanding of the twelfth century's military strategy and an easy talent to make this difficult matter fascinating reading for a twentieth-century audience. His vivid descriptions cover the military facts from the outbreak of the First Crusade in 1095 till the battle of Hattin in 1187. With this battle and the fall of Jerusalem the attempt to break and master the Mohammedan pressure on Christian civilization was wrecked. The later Crusades are, according to Belloc, only episodes without historical grandeur.

The author seeks to convince modern observers that they are in error in believing the East has finally fallen before the West, that Islam is now enslaved to our political and economic power if not to our philosophy. Islam, he claims, essentially survives, and Islam would not have survived had the Crusades made good its hold upon the essential point of Damascus. The failure of the Crusaders is to him the crucial turning-point influencing our present world situation.

Belloc claims that Islam remained intact while Christianity is in serious peril. I cannot agree with him. The religious forces of the Mohammedans are far from being intact. Islam has been submitted to nearly the same forces of secularization as Christianity had to resist. In the Soviet Union it is evident that under the same conditions Islam has no stronger resistance to suppression and anti-religious propaganda than Christianity, even perhaps less resistance. And in Turkey Kemal Ataturk was able to change Islam into a nationalistic pagan state philosophy without finding such strong opposition as Nazi church politics find in Germany. But I am sure

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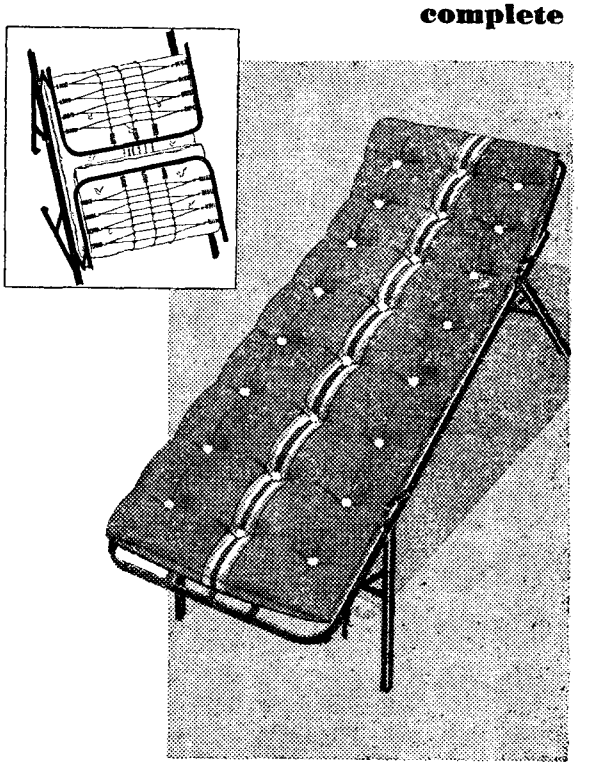

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intelligent readers will highly appreciate a book which brings the discussion of such up-to-date problems into a captivating description of eighty-eight eventful years of occidental advance toward the East.

MAX FISCHER.

The End of an Epoch

Maria Theresa, the Last Conservative, by Constance Lily Morris. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. $3.50.

THIS is an exceedingly interesting book, well written, well conceived from its own particular point of view, and very well documented, in spite of a few mistakes, which one feels proceed more from carelessness than from ignorance. For instance, on page 56 the author mentions Eleanor Desmier d'Olbrauge, who in reality was Eleanor Desmier d'Olbreuse, as having been a beauty at the Court of Venice. First there did not exist a Court of Venice, then Eleanor d'Olbreuse was a Frenchwoman, who was very well known at the Court of Versailles. Then again, on page 267, when speaking of the marriage of Joseph II with Isabella of Parma, the latter is described by the author as having been the niece of King Louis XV of France. She was not his niece, but his granddaughter, her mother, who was known by her contemporaries as Madame Infante, having been that monarch's eldest child. All this, however, is trifling in comparison with the real erudition within this book.

One might perhaps question calling Maria Theresa the Last Conservative. She was not that, not even in Austria, where this description could be better applied to her descendants, such as Francis II, and much later to the last Hapsburg Emperor, Francis Joseph, who died during the World War. But all the members of that illustrious house were Conservatives, and like her kinsmen Maria Theresa clung to ancient traditions and past grandeur.

Her character is exceedingly well described by Mrs. Morris. The story of her struggle against Frederick the Great is magnificently handled, and in some ways a revelation, because Mrs. Morris has not only looked upon it from the political point of view, but has most cleverly pointed out that feminine pride, feminine susceptibilities and, in some instances, feminine vanity were also important factors in Maria Theresa's determination to carry it to the bitter end.

The Empress has dignity, and was "a strong if narrow idealist" as Mrs. Morris puts it in her book, and in this she was infinitely superior to Frederick II who had neither faith nor principles, and who relentlessly went on his way heedless of consequences, and fearing no one either on earth or above. Maria Theresa feared God and His judgments, in spite of the fact that she lent herself to many injustices, such as the partition of Poland. She thoroughly believed in the divine right of kings, while her opponent simply held to the theory that a king could not be wrong, which is a very different thing. In the end neither he nor the Empress obtained all that each wanted in the treaty ending the Seven Years' War.

Mrs. Morris gives an excellent description of the curious relations between Maria Theresa and her eldest son, the Emperor Joseph II, and her picture of the latter is thoroughly sympathetic. He belonged to another epoch than his mother, and none knew this better than the Empress. She realized the force of the eternal struggle between fathers and sons, and it slowly weighed her down to the extent that when death came it seemed almost a deliverance.

I would have liked Mrs. Morris to end her book with the description of the Empress's death, which is so moving in its simplicity. The Epilogue could with advantage have been omitted. With Maria Theresa a chapter of European history came to an end, and together with it this story of her life ought to have been concluded.

CATHERINE RADZIWILL.

The Teaching Office

A History of Catholic Education in the United States, by Very Rev. J. A. Burns, C.S.C., Ph.D., and Bernard J. Kohlbrenner, A.M.; with an Introduction by Most Rev. John B. Peterson, D.D. New York: Benziger Brothers. $3.20.

IN THE vast labors of the teaching office of the Church at large through the ages, we are sometimes prone to overlook the thrilling story as it concerns our own country. Indeed these authors insist that theirs is not a finished account of this latter subject for the reason that many periods and phases of the story have received little attention from students. Hence the suggested topics for investigation and report listed at the end of each chapter indicate the field of further study. Nevertheless the present volume is a splendid development by Professor Kohlbrenner of Dr. Burns's two original volumes on the subject, namely "The Catholic School System in the United States" and "The Growth and Development of the Catholic School System in the United States." With the exception of the seminary education of the clergy, which is not included in the volume—and which by the way should prove an exciting and controversial subject—we have here a general account of all phases of Catholic education, its principles, curriculum, organization, its relations to other institutional developments, including the general growth of the Church and the parallel public school evolution, all these from the earliest beginnings of the country. An introductory chapter sets the old world background. The extensive bibliography on every theme is especially commendable, containing as it does an abstract of all the important works cited.

Obviously there were many forces at work in the history of our country which were destined to make the educational work of the Catholic Church here a quite unique undertaking. For our teachers in the Catholic school system the story of that enterprise is perhaps of more immediate and practical interest even than the larger endeavor of the Church through the ages. For the first time a single thoroughly documented volume in textbook form is now made available to our educators. It should easily be listed as required reading of first importance. The reviewer will be pardoned if he singles out for special interest the excellent, though necessarily

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brief, chapter on higher education. He is particularly glad to note due credit given to Bishop John L. Spalding in that chapter and in the expansion of Catholic education generally, to have an historian set down unequivocally the fact that Bishop Spalding became "the real founder of the Catholic University of America." We believe the authors have thoroughly established the fact.

CHARLES A. HART.

The Old Country

A History of Ireland, by Edmund Curtis; with Five Maps. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company. $4.00.

IN HIS lengthy introduction to this book the author tells his readers that he has been studying Irish history for thirty years and has been teaching it for twenty years. It may be possible that this record would impress college students of the type that attend Trinity College and the British Board of that British subsidized institution but there are millions of Irish Catholics who refuse to be led into temptation. The reviewer is one of those simple souls who still feel the ignominy that more than 700 years of English Protestant misrule have heaped on an honorable and progressive people.

The body of the book glares throughout with the apologies of the author for the telling of the story. Telling it in his way leaves no room for motives of pure historical conception. The Irish must be made to read the book at any cost. Its 400 pages of words make the harrassed reader wonder why they were written. Even the origins chapter is so involved that the Irish reader wonders why the distinguished Doctor of Literature hasn't spent some of his studious hours on "The Annals of the Four Masters." There is nothing essentially new or inviting about the text or its method of presentation. The chapters devoted to the Norman invasion read as similar chapters by former British Protestant writers.

Edmund Spenser, that writing spawn of the Elizabeth period in English history, wrote in his "View of the State of Ireland," "wherein it is great wonder to see the odds between the zeal of Popish priests and the ministers of the Gospel. For they spare not to come out of Spain and Rome by long toil and dangerous traveling, where they know peril of death awaited them and no reward or riches are to be found, only to draw the people unto the Church of Rome. . . ."

EDWARD J. BREEN.

Character and Circumstances

The Stranger Prince, The Story of Rupert of the Rhine, by Margaret Irwin. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. $2.50.

ALTHOUGH this book will be listed, rightly enough because of the imaginative vision that informs it, as a novel, it is much more historical reality than historical romance. And it is much more than the record of the events which led to the killing of Charles I of England by his subjects; it is an able and penetrating interpretation of how, in Belloc's words, "Character reacted to Circumstances, how

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Next Week

Next week is devoted to the GERMAN ISSUE by this magazine. Michael Williams will have an article dealing with the problem in general, showing what it means not only to Germans and Catholics but also to every individual in this country as well as in all the other countries of the world. . . . NAZI CAMPAIGN AGAINST CATHOLICS, by Waldemar Gurian, is a brilliant and authoritative article which explains besides most vividly describing. The unbelievably cynical contortions of Hitlerite propaganda are displayed with word and letter. More important even than that, the clear aim and purpose of this debased campaign are exposed: "All signs point to an ultimate law for the safeguard of German morals" whereby the totalitarian state will become still more total and Christianity will be removed still farther from a place of influence on the great German people. . . . Barry Byrne, whose architectural accomplishments have enhanced the beauty of many of our readers' places of worship and of study, contributes SURREALISM PASSES. This is a really very profound analysis of the very modish school of art with which Americans, in droves, have become acquainted during the past six months. "As for the exhibition of Surrealist paintings that is on tour, that may be expected to cause one of three reactions in the American communities it visits. . . ." Readers will be most interested in placing themselves in groups 1, 2, or 3.

Circumstances thwarted and restrained Character." The author reveals how a Parliament, as dishonest as it was violent, could fulfil its purpose through a populace stirred by religious fanaticism into a "turgid welter of emotion, raw, hysterical, angry." That purpose was to create the horror of civil war in order to abuse the privileges they were afraid the King might abuse, to destroy law in the name of law. She shows how both Parliament and people were to become the tools of Cromwell, "a rugged neurotic of enormous and unhappy power" in whom the dark terrors of Calvinism had produced more than incipient madness. With an effect of chiaroscuro, to the bestiality and frantic emotionalism of the Puritans who, after murdering and mutilating women, cried triumphantly, "Thus now indeed does the Lord shew Himself," she opposes the tragic figure of the King as Rupert first saw him, "gracious and imperturbably serene"—becoming the weary fugitive whose shifting and bewildered mind led him to seek refuge with his enemies, to court disaster and death.

In the novel, as the title suggests, the central figure in this conflict is Rupert, the nephew of the King, who had acquired before he was out of his teens a half legendary character as a fighter, but who, in spite of his genius as a leader and his gallant knight-errantry in his uncle's cause, was to fail in that land where he was, after all, a Stranger Prince. Margaret Irwin arouses absorbed interest in Rupert's career and genuine suspense which does not depend upon ignorance of the outcome. There is no happy ending for this "difficult lad, odd, angry, perverse," only a doubtful future in fierce adventure by sea.

LUCILE HARRINGTON.

Voodoo

Life in a Haitian Valley, by Melville Herskovits. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. $4.00.

THIS illuminating study is the result of an adverse review which Dr. Herskovits published some time ago of one of the latest sensational bits of literature on Haiti. The indignation which he felt for the grossness and superficiality of many of these treatises led to the preparation of this work which studies the Haitian in his native habitat, as a normal human being, of African descent, working out his salvation in the West Indies, rather than the chamber of horrors specimen depicted by so many unscrupulous writers and exploiters of Haiti.

The examination of voodoo and popular superstition constitutes in a sense the essence of the book. Everything is built up to prepare the way for the explanation of the popular religion of the Haitian people. The specific setting is the little town of Mirebalais, some forty miles from Port-au-Prince. Typical in many ways of the average Haitian small town, the life in this valley forms a cross-section of the entire nation. Here the author undertook to obtain exact information for his analysis of the impact of European and African civilizations upon each other. The reading of this highly documented book will dispel much of the nonsense which circulates as the truth about Haiti.

RICHARD PATTEE.

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A Mariner's Odyssey

Le Voyage de Laperouse sur les Côtes de l'Alaska et de la Californie; edited by Gilbert Chinard. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. $3.00.

THE explorations of Laperouse here live again. Mr. Chinard, besides giving us the best of Laperouse's journal, has prepared a splendid introduction for the mariner's odyssey. In this Foreword appears a brief outline of the life of Laperouse before the expedition. Then comes an interesting account of the preparations for the voyage, and following, a short sketch about the French pioneers in Alaska and California. Mr. Chinard was greatly aided in his work by his colleagues, Herbert L. Mason, Joseph Grinnell and Herbert E. Bolton of the University of California, and by Reverend Patrick Toddy, O.F.M., whose research in the archives of Santa Barbara Mission brought to light the unpublished letters of Reverend Lausen to Laperouse. There are many interesting illustrations reproduced from the original book and maps of the coast made up from observations of the expedition. This book is recognized by the Institut Francais, Washington, as an official commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Laperouse.

The Greatest Task

Physicians and Medical Care, by Esther Lucile Brown. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. $.75.

THE Russell Sage Foundation was established in 1907 "for the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States of America." It has carried out the purpose of the foundation very well in this book. It furnishes in handy form all the data that are useful for the solution of the problem of medical care so far as we know it at the present time. It is often said that physicians have increased out of all proportion to the population but in reality the population has increased faster than the physicians. The trouble is that most of the physicians insist on settling in the cities instead of the country where they are needed. No wonder, then, that Professor Sigerist insists that America now is faced with the greatest task of all, that of putting this apparatus of schools, hospitals and laboratories to work in such a way that everybody may receive due medical care.

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